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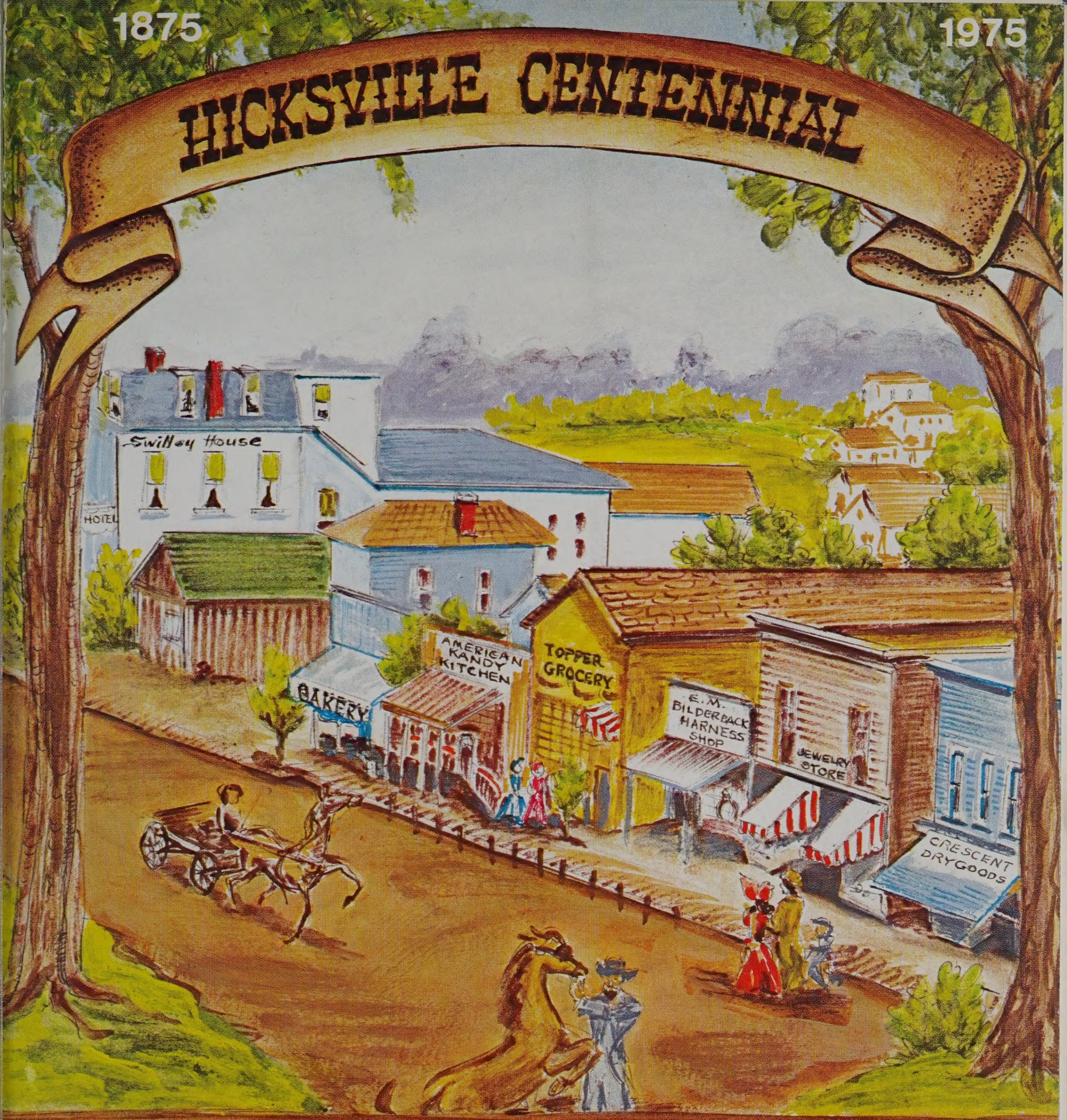
HICKSVILLE CENTENNIAL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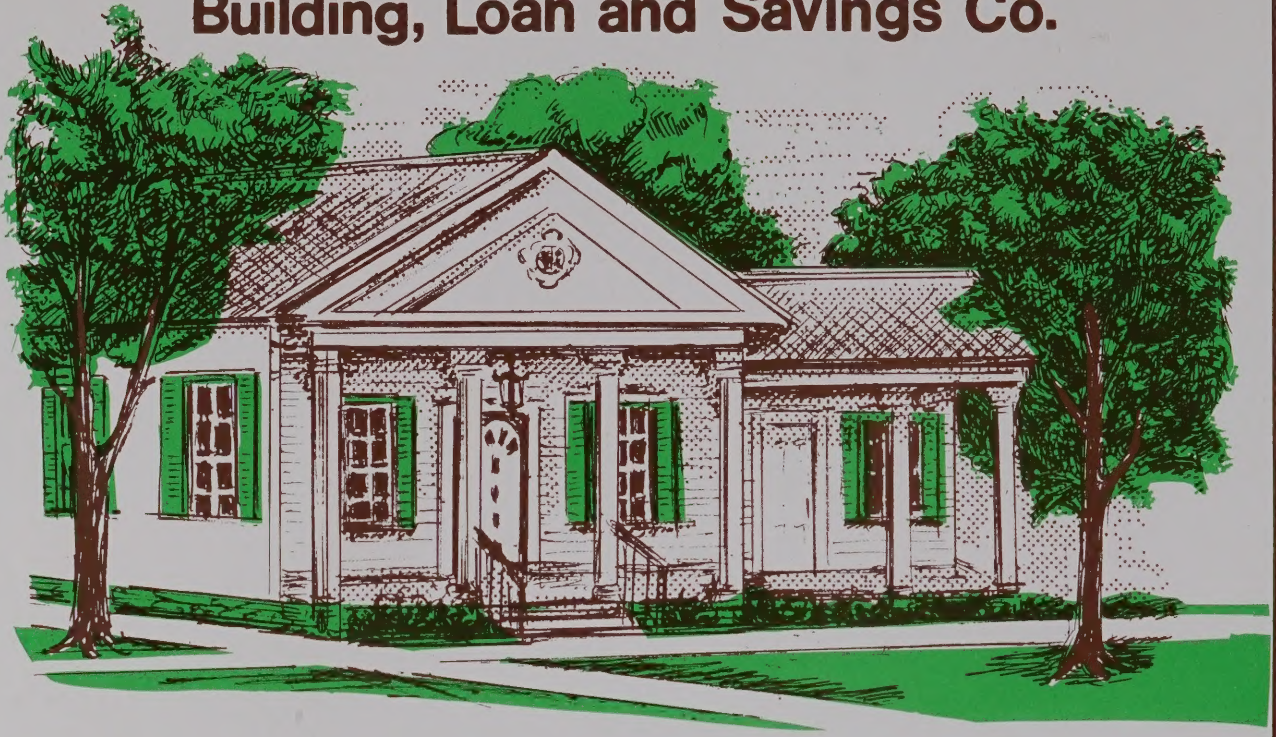
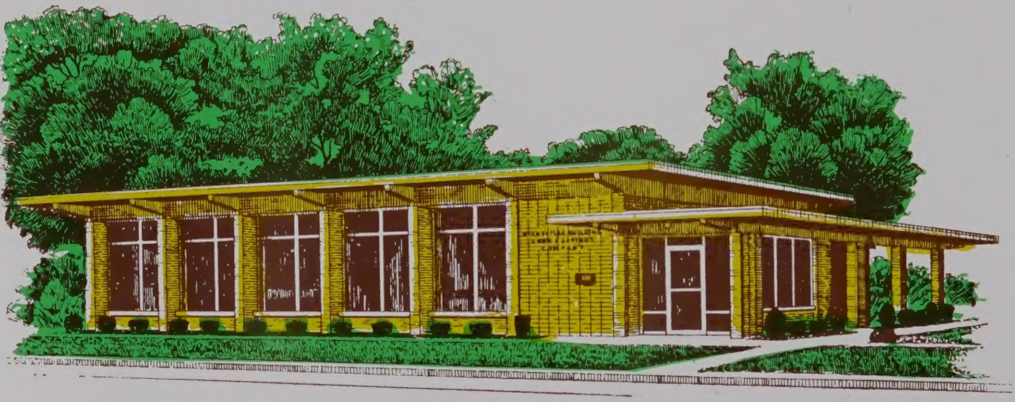


1890 - 1960



1960 - 1975

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THE HISTORY OF HICKSVILLE

"IT'S SUCH A NICE PLACE"

"The beginning of time to 1975"

James R. Battershell Jr., author
The Jaycee History Committee consists of Bruce Guilford, Bill Erpelding, Dennis Lengacher, Fritz Kuhn, James Meyers, and James Battershell Jr.

Table of Contents

Centennial Proclamation 2
An Introduction to Hicksville History 4
History — Geological formation 5
Hicksville Is Founded 8
The 1850's 14
1860 and the Civil War 15
Incorporation 18
The 1880's 20
The 1890's 22
The 1900's 26
The 1910's 29
The 1920's 32
The 1930's 35
The 1940's 37
The 1950's 40
The 1960's 44
Original Plat of Hicksville 1837 48-49
Church and Organization Histories 52
Hicksville Schools 64
Police Department 70
Farms of Yesteryear 75
Fire Department 76
Hicksville Mayors 80
1974-75 Jaycees Roster 90
Centennial Program 96

Compiled and edited by James Battershell Jr. and James Meyers

This booklet is a Hicksville Jaycee's presentation to commemorate the hundred years of Hicksville's Incorporation. For Battershell, it was an Independent Study Project at the Defiance College, as well as a Jaycee's project. The Jaycees would like to publically thank the entire Village for the positive spirit shown, not only in preparation for this booklet, but also the enthusiasm shown in the growth of beards, the costumes and clothing worn, the fun of the jail and other activities that have been well patronized. If the two hundred year celebration is as well accepted as this one, it will go off without a hitch.

Copyright applied for 1975, James Battershell Jr.

COVER LAYOUT AND DESIGN
By Jan Brinkerhoff
Crown Advertising
Garrett, Indiana

CENTENNIAL PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS John A. Bryan, Henry W. Hicks and Isaac S. Smith caused the original plat of Hicksville to be laid out in 1836,

The town of Hicksville was incorporated, by filing with the Sec. of State May 15, 1875. Presiding over the village of Hicksville was the first mayor Thomas C. Kinmont, M.D.

Whereas the people of Hicksville including many descendants of those pioneers desire to commemorate the incorporation of the town and the efforts of those who have laid down their labors, and have designated the dates June 5 thru June 8th, 1975 for that purpose;

Now, Therefore, I, Jay Volkert, Mayor of the Village of Hicksville, Ohio do hereby proclaim that the above dates be set aside in the town of Hicksville, for an historical study and celebration

And, in as much as the growth and development of the town of Hicksville has been in part due to association with the contiguous neighborhoods and it is fitting and proper that the entire surrounding community join in this Centennial Celebration, the Town of Hicksville invites all the peoples in the area to take part in the coming memorial events and invites all individuals and organized groups to study the history of Hicksville and participate in our festivities, and to profit by a better understanding of the pioneer work done by the founders and builders of the town of Hicksville.

Dated this 1st day of January, 1975.

JAY VOLKERT, Mayor

Jay J. Volkert

Members of Village Council of the Village of Hicksville, Ohio

Dennis S. Guilford   Raymond C. Ewing

Gene M. McClellan   Stanley D. Applegate

Allen R. Hilbert   Kenneth Rodocker

THE HICKSVILLE BUILDING LOAN AND SAVINGS COMPANY

(SEE OUR COLOR ADVERTISEMENT ON THE INSIDE FRONT COVER)

1890 - 1975

On January 1, 1975, The Hicksville Building Loan and Savings Company opened for the 85th year of continued service to the Hicksville Community and surrounding areas.

On January 10, 1890, a group of business men, who felt the necessity of a financial institution of some kind to meet the needs of the fast growing developments in and around the Village of Hicksville, met in the Law Office of Frank Farlow. Out of this spirited meeting, The Hicksville Building Loan and Savings Co. was constituted and so named.

The first officers elected were as follows: R. F. Kerr, president; T. G. Dowell, Vice-President; Frank L. Farlow, Secretary and F. W. Jeffries, Treasurer. Other directors were D. B. Miller, A. M. Overhold and T. H. B. Correll. Authorized capital was $100,000.00, 750 shares at $100.00 each and 50 shares at $500.00 each. This first Board of Directors continued to meet weekly in the Farlow Law Office to transact business.

Nine years later, in 1899, The Hicksville Building Loan and Savings Co. moved into the historic Hicks Land Office Building, on the corner of High and Main Streets. It was in this same white framed colonial office building that Mr. A. P. Edgerton sold thousands of acres of land to the homesteaders who chose to settle in North West Ohio during the western movement. This building was erected in 1840, 3 years after Mr. Edgerton arrived in Hicksville.

The Building and Loan continued to operate in this building for 69 years, preserving throughout the years, the style and architecture of the original structure.

The Village of Hicksville continued to grow from it's beginning in 1835, while many small villages ceased to exist. Likewise The Hicksville Building Loan and Savings Co., from it's beginning, continued to grow in service and capital, closing the year 1960 with total assets of $4,868,962.95.

The Directors were faced with an earnest need of expansion in 1959. The offices were in need of more room and facilities, to better serve the growing community. The grave question concerning the fate of the historic Land Office Building was solved when the decision was made by the Directors to move the building to the North on an adjoining lot. The old site was then used for the construction of the new building.

Thus the 119 year old Land Office Building was moved to it's present location in July of 1959. The business was continued there until the new Hicksville Building Loan and Savings Co. was opened in October of 1960.

The new structure is 70 x 75 feet, has a spacious carpeted lobby, six teller windows, a drive-up window, bookkeeping department, two private offices, two fireproof vaults; one on the first floor and one in the basement, plus a Community Room, accessible on the level with an outside entrance. The building is heated and air conditioned electrically.

Total assets December 31, 1974, were $12,690,968.44.

Other than financial interests, the personnel of the Hicksville Building Loan and Savings Co. continues to be concerned and interested in serving in a volume of varied ways. From year to year, special community projects are sponsored which helps to make Hicksville, Ohio, a nice place to live and a "Town Worth-while."

Directors who have served through the past 85 years are:

R. F. Kerr
T. G. Dowell
Frank L. Farlow
F. W. Jeffries
D. B. Miller
A. M. Overholt
T. H. B. Correll
S. W. Welty
Thomas D. Hood
Frank Swingle
W. H. Blakeslee
James E. Coulter
N. S. McConnell
B. S. Pettit
Jessie E. Scott
George Simmons
T. A. Horn
J. J. Dorsey
S. F. Welty
Ethel Simmons
Frank Dalrymple
J. H. Lower
E. F. Armstrong
Clyde Maxwell
Lee Griffin
Guy Volkert
O. C. Perkins
George B. Wilderson
Hollis Grover
Homer Wentworth
H. H. Van Horn
Albert Zuber
L. E. Hart
Walter Smith
John Hofner
George Rohrs
Dennis Slattery
William A. Roan
Loren Stuckman

Past Secretaries were:

Frank Farlow	1890 - 1891
W. D. Wilson	1892 - 1893
T. H. B. Correll	1893 - 1899
James E. Coulter	1900 - 1901
N. S. McConnell	1902 - 1903
Guy D. Wilson (resigned Sept. 25, 1905)	1904 - 1905
George D. Simmons	Oct. 25, 1905 - 1945
Homer Wentworth	1945 - 1960
William A. Roan (died Feb. 1966)	1960 - 1966
Loren Stuckman	1966 - On

Attorneys for the Company:

Frank L. Farlow
Lee Griffin
Laird L. Hoff
Reeder Hutchinson
John Zimmerman

Present Board of Directors - 1975

Guy L. Volkert, President
Hollis Grover, First Vice President
Walter C. Smith, Second Vice President
George H. Rohrs, Third Vice President
Albert W. Zuber, Treasurer
Dennis Slattery, Director
Loren Stuckman, Director

Present Officers:

Loren W. Stuckman, Assistant Secretary
Wilda Murphy, Assistant Secretary
Mary A. Thiel, Assistant Secretary
Alice J. Roan, Assistant Secretary
Beth Ann Smith, Assistant Secretary
Jill A. Burley, Assistant Secretary

An Introduction to Hicksville History

The Hicksville Jaycee's in commemoration of the hundred years since Hicksville filed articles of incorporation, have staged a Centennial Celebration. To further enhance the sentiment of the occasion a booklet has been written on the chronological development and history, of the village and township.

Every available means have been derived to constitute the most factual and up to date, bibliography ever written on the village of Hicksville. The booklet is divided in two sections. The first part, The History of Hicksville, was written by James Battershell, Jr. It begins with the ice age and continues to the year 1975.

The second section was part of an effort to involve all community organizations and churches. A series of requests were printed in the Hicksville News-Tribune, asking for all organizations, churches and residents to bring forth any historical information. The response was good, and with the information and facts turned in, James Meyers and wife, Marcia, transcribed them to a more succinct manner. Other than this the second section is just how the individual turned his work in.

For these authors work to materialize in a booklet form, the use of a printer was required. Jaycees Bill Erpelding, Fritz Kuhn, Dennis Lengacher and Bruce Guilford worked with Merle Pepple and the Hicksville News-Tribune staff to be sure it transpired.

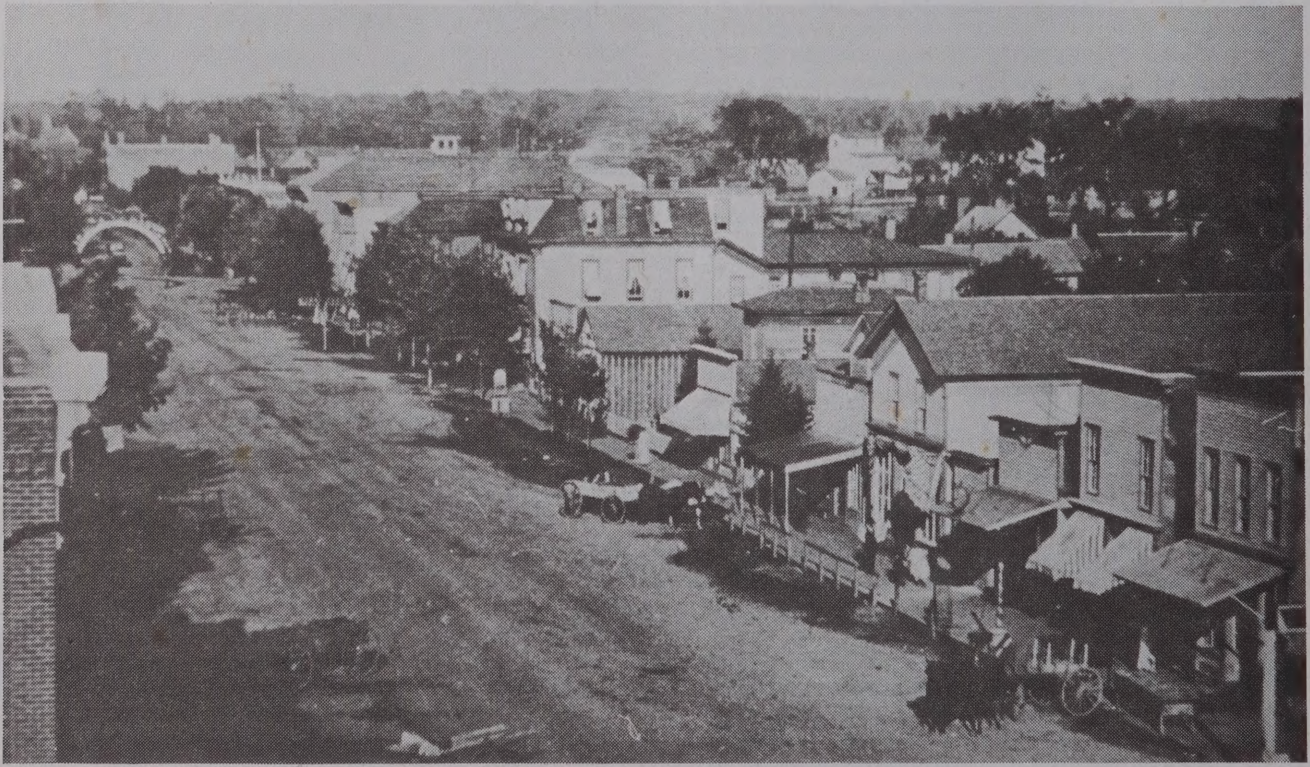
To assist James Battershell Jr. in his writing a number of verbal confirmations were often required. Many a late hour was spent in pleasant conversation with people who took time out of their busy schedules, to provide information that they had in various papers, as well as the remembrance of the town as they recalled it. With the facts Battershell had collected, and the personal reminiscences of the older citizen, the booklet was printed.

"The entire object of this booklet is to better inform the local citizen, of how our community got to where it is today. In so doing, all efforts have been made to provide a factual picture of the history of our village.

In acceding to the Jaycee's challenge in writing this booklet, I became aware of just what a fine town we really do reside in. This is not necessarily in regards to the facts of the past, for there were good, as well as bad times. What I am referring to, is the manner in which I was received into so many homes and the various individuals who I came in contact with. My experiences with meeting so many different people, further proves my theory correct; that ninety-nine per cent of the people, are indeed good!

There is one person who I must spotlight in my introduction. It was once stated, "that behind every successful man, is a woman." How true I have found this to be. The young lady I refer to is my girlfriend, Leesa Kemerer. When digging through the numerous publications for research she was forever there, uncovering something I may have missed, or just giving me that needed push to pursue a bit further. Finally when we had an outline, and a long hand form of the thesis, it was she who had to sift through page after page, of my so called hand writing, to produce a typewritten copy. Many an hour was spent by this young lady, and often late into the night, pecking away at her typewriter. It is also our parents who should share quite a bit of the credit for this booklet. It was they, who had to listen to the repetitious beat of the typewriter, as well as filling in the many details of the thesis. If I may dedicate my section of the booklet, I do so to Leesa Kemerer. Without her inspiration I fear this material would never have seen the light of day."

James Battershell Jr.



This 1890's Hicksville street scene, depicted on the cover, shows a very early look at East High Street. Most of the buildings have been long since replaced by more modern structures.

Photo submitted by L. L. Hoff

Geological formation of the area

Many theories have been presented on the geological makeup and formation of our area. The North American continent at one time consisted of a tropical climate which after a period of time advanced to an artic atmosphere. Gradually the temperature crept southward until the area from the North Pole to the latitude of Cincinnati was a field of ice, thousands of feet deep. As it came in our direction it brought with it the best of soil from the areas it traveled.

This transformation lasted for thousands of years. The earth being formed for the coming of man.

"As the ice thawed the imbedded boulders, gravel and sand were freed. As this process continued, the glaciers moved forward to supply the place of the melted ice. Should these opposing forces be in equilibrium, the edge of the glacier would remain stationary, and in the course of time a "terminal morine" was formed." This created a gigantic ridge which when later filled with water became the Black Swamp. Hicksville is on the western boundry of this region.

The glacier did not leave the Maumee Valley for centuries. When these glaciers eventually did move, they would leave behind what had formed into a substance called bedrock. This region of bedrock was then covered by a gigantic lake. Then thru a span of time clay flowed in and covered the bedrock.

The lake eventually settled away to the area that we call the Great Lakes. As this occurred marshes were formed. The decaying matter of the marshes along with the overflow of the lake prepared a soil that would provide the elements to raise the tremendous forests of our area.

The Maumee River and other tributaries drained the marshes, and took the surplus water to other areas. An area that had water still standing was the Black Swamp. This encompassed a large area in Paulding County and our neighboring regions.

The trees and aquatic shrubs decayed into the clay. This developed into a solid, fertile sub-soil. The animals were also busy fertilizing the land and bringing the clay to the top of the sub-soil to be aerated. Land crabs, earthworms, herds of buffalo, elk and deer roamed the area. This fulfilled natures obligation of developing our soil for the coming of man.

The area drainage was hindered by falling trees. The thick foilage of the forest and the growth of herbaceous plants prevented evaporation. These plants were a powerful agent in the moisturizing effect of the decomposed elements of nature.

This process is a development of millions of years, and with it leaves our village at a sea level of 750 feet. With the plentiful trees, the bountiful game, and the productive soil, the Indians migrated to our region.

French development of the area until 1763

Shortly before the coming of the Pilgrims at Plymouth Rock the French were in the Michigan area. They were a group of semi vagabond French fur traders, explorers and missionaries. The French became well acquainted with the Indians. A treaty arrangement was signed between M. Perrot and the Indians of the Great Lakes. The French were given the right to occupy the region in the name of France.

By 1680 the famous LaSalle was sent to explore the territory we are so familiar with. He found our area primarily around the Maumee River to be well known to the Catholic Missionaries, and French fur traders. This region was a point of exchange for the adjacent fur bearing regions.

By the eighteenth century the east was primarily agrarian and British controlled. What was the west, our region was dominated by the French and the Indian tribes. The British were not in this area because of a pro-French attitude. The Catholic missionaries who were French were the reason for this. This would change when the Indian realized the British would pay a higher fee for their furs, then the French fur buyers.

The British began infiltrating the Ohio. In the 1750's the British tried unsuccessfully several different times to trade with Indians at Grand Glaize (Defiance). In the winter of 1749-50 among others camping in the Hicksville-Defiance region were the Miamis, Prankaahaws, Ottowas, Delawares and Shawnee.

From 1707 to 1759 their were several different Indian tribes in our region. Ottawa Villages were abundent from 1707 to 1748, Kickapoos and Muscounteres resided in the region in 1712. The Miamis ventured to the Maumee River region in great lots. The Hurons spent some time in Defiance County, primarily in the 1750's, but lived mostly in the areas of Michigan and the Lake Erie region, Weas, Wyandotts, and Caughnawage Mohawks also hunted in our area.

Thru numerous conflicts as to who was to control the area north and west of the Ohio River, the French and Indian War developed in 1753. During this the Maumee and Wabash rivers served as important military routes for the French. These rivers provided the connections to Lake Erie, and to the Ohio River, and eventually to the Mississippi River.

The French and their allies the Indians were in command of the situation until William Pitt assumed control of the English government in 1758. By 1763, the British were in the position to demand peace of the French. The area of Northwest Ohio, became under control of the British, with the enactment of the Treaty of Paris in 1763.

British influence of the area

The Indians could not understand the refusal of the French to no longer fight. Under the leadership of the immortal Ottowa chief Pontiac, a coalition of tribes were formed to exterminate the English whiteman. This is probably one of the greatest efforts ever for the red-man. They fought as a team, with all of the tribes involved, instead of the usual scattered effort. The Indian never liked to fight long, and with the coming of Bradstreet, and the Bouquet expeditions, their masacres ceased. The Indian was also a great admirer of a show of strength that Bouquet especially provided.

In 1762, a British scout by the name of Hutchins speaks of a Miami Indian village, near the present day Ohio-Indiana line. It was located on the west bank of the St. Joseph River. The group called their village Kekionga, and 920 persons lived here. The village was there until about 1776.

A number of Ottowas continued to live on the Maumee, near Grand Glaize (Defiance) in 1774. With the coming of the Revolutionary war these Indians and all of the tribes seemed to be siding with the Redcoats. "The birth of our nation provided us with the sovereignty over the Ohio Valley." But the British were still involved in the rich fur trade of our vicinity long after the end of the Revolutionary War.

This war did not end the Indian problem in Ohio. They became increasingly irritated at the influxuation of the white man into these regions. In November and December of 1786, the major tribes met in a huge council held at "the Huron Village near Detroit."

They sent a message to the Congress asking that their land be kept free of the irresponsible whiteman. They wanted the Ohio River boundry line, defined in the treaty of Fort Stanwix, upheld.

The treaty, of course, was violated by our government, and the Indian again proceeded on the warpath. General George Roders Clarke was sent to our area, with orders, "to make the Indians behave." He had such a great desire for alcohol that he could not provide the proper leadership this rowdy group needed. They were unsuccessful.

Simon Kenton and a group of people from Kentucky, were the second group sent to try and discipline the Indians, and primarily the Shawnees. They did not get very far past the present state line when they were captured, and made prisoners of the tribe.

Finally a full scale expedition was sent to our area, under the leadership of General Harmor. The determined savages made a quick end to their efforts. Harmor was court martialed and Governor St. Clair was appointed to try and quell the disturbances.

He began a line of forts from Fort Washington (Cincinnati), to Fort Jefferson (near Greenville) with little problems. By the time he had gotten to the head waters of the Wabash River, the Indians began to take notice. Little Turtle, Blue Jacket, Backongahelas, Blackhoof, Pipe, and Simon Gerty, all fearless leaders, assembled a force of about 1,200 warriors. St. Clairs men were not a group of great valor, or integrity. In November of 1894, St. Clairs unorganized group were within fifteen miles of a great Miami village near present day Fort Wayne. Here the

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Indians attacked. St. Clair and his men retreated in chaos as fast as they could travel to Fort Washington.

President Washington responded to the defeat with great pangs of depression. The President realized that a more competent leader would have to be sent to the region. His hunt came across many man, and the eventual choice Anthony Wayne was not wanted because of his poor Revolutionary War record. He was given the job, and our first Presidents choice proved very wise.

"Mad Anthony" called to the area

Anthony Wayne is often given the surname, "Mad Anthony" when in fact the title is misleading, as he was a very cautious General. He went over and over Harmor and St. Clairs mistakes. He realized one of their biggest errors was lack of discipline. Secondly he saw they were outsmarted by the tactful Indian, in both situations, Wayne had plans to correct the weaknesses.

He was going to insist on a firm and organized group of men. He began his recruiting as he crept westward. When he got to Fort Washington, he had one of the most elete frontier armies ever assembled.

As has been mentioned, Wayne was a rather cautious and crafty individual. He traveled the same basic route that St. Clair had, in the line of forts built. He differed, however, in that he underbrushed three different paths at one time. The Indians never new where to expect him. As he traveled he built a series of garrisons, that were to serve for supply lines, and stock houses. One of these was Fort Defiance.

The Indians were becoming increasingly discouraged for three reasons. First of all they felt they should have stopped Waynes troops long before he had built Fort Defiance. Wayne was primarily successful here because he would not pursue the Indian on his own selection of battle. Rather Wayne would keep his forces ready to fight on the area he was familiar with, instead of the forests where the Indian excelled.

Secondly as has been mentioned the Indian was not one to fight for long intervals of time. He was an individual who fought for what was his, but he too had a family, and crops to raise.

Finally, the Indian had felt that they could rely on British and Canadian support. They greatly miscalculated here.

The short and minor skirmish at Fallen Timbers was the last major effort by the Indians to stop Wayne and his powerful force. It was not much of a battle as most of the powerful tribes realizing the cause was defunct, had left the area.

Wayne then scoured our area for Indian holdings and destroyed all he could find. The Indians that remained in the area nearly starved to death in the winter of 1794. His main body of troops then returned to Fort Defiance, and then on to establish a fort with his name, thus Fort Wayne.

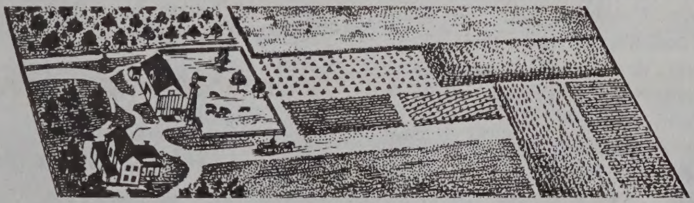
The desperate redman in 1795 signed the treaty of Greenville. There were, however, some groups of Wyandots, Miamis, Ottowas, Seneca's and Pottawatomies residing in our Hicksville area until the 1840's.

The formation of our land thru the glaciers, the migration of the Indian to the area, the coming of the French to proclaim this land for the whiteman, and the British influence of the region led to the Indians envisioning their land being taken away, by a selfish culture. The eventual defeat of the Indian by Anthony Wayne opened the way for peaceful migration of the area by our forefathers.

Land speculators and the area

Ohio was admitted to the Union in 1803 after a treaty with the Indians. On February 12, 1820, the state of Ohio opened for sale the land to individuals. A price of $1.25 an acre was the amount to be paid for this land. The minimum amount of acerage that could be bought was 80, or an eighth of a section. The primary individuals who did buy were the rich, looking for a means to further enhance their holdings. The purchased were made with the assumption that the holdings could be sold within five years of sale. After that the land would become taxable and not as profitable a sale could be made.

Hicksville would not be settled for years, but the westward movement was progressing in Ohio. Not only were fur trappers and loggers entering the western area of the state, but gunsmiths, blacksmiths, store keepers, farmers, iron workers, as well as the transportation services. Many were bringing their families with them and as many of their belongings as space would permit.



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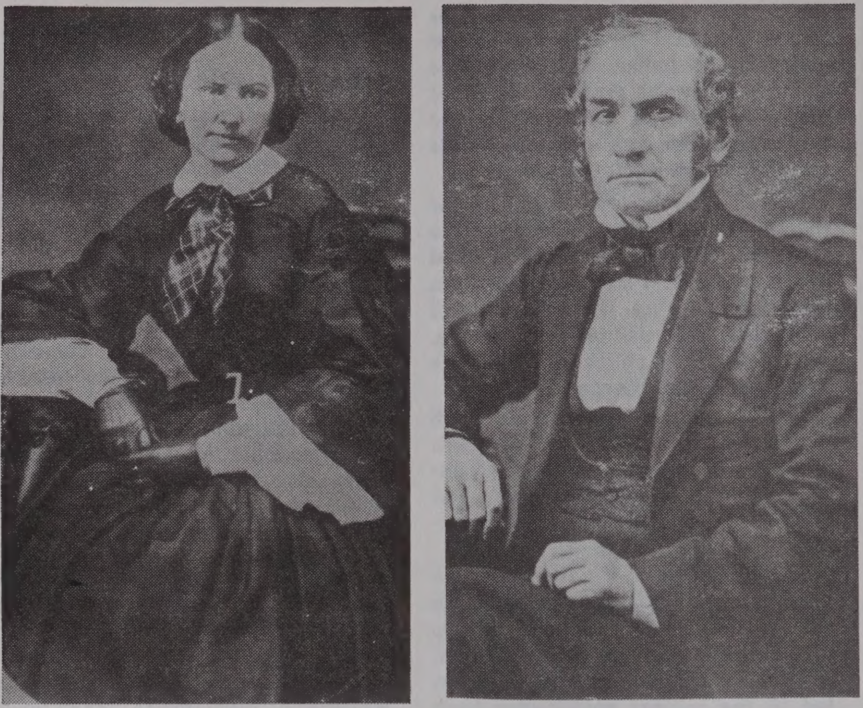

Hicksville is named for its New York City founder, Henry W. Hicks, owner of Hicks Land Company of New York City. The millionaire Quaker and his wife, Annetta W. W. Hicks, were of Long Island Family Extraction.
Photos submitted by Mrs. Marion Harris

With the development of the regions moving continually in a westerly direction, and the governments building of roads and canals to the west, it is logical to assume that some enterprising person would buy land in our area.

In sophisticated New York City, lived two such people. Henry W. Hicks of the Samuel Hicks and Sons shipping merchants and Issac A. Smith. He was the owner of a large steamboat system and forwarded the commissioning of merchants.

The Hicks Land Company under Henry W. Hicks, and the American Land Company under Issac Smith, along with other land speculators based in Columbus, purchased large acerage of land in Northwest Ohio. In 1835 the Hicks Land Company purchased 14,000 acres. The American Land Company bought 4,000 acres, this was of a total of 23,040 acres. These men were taking a tremendous gamble. But they felt that a village was needed between Fort Wayne and Defiance, and felt their $1.25 an acre would be profitable in five years.

The early developments of Hicksville

John A. Bryan of Columbus, Ohio, was the Auditor of the state in 1836. He had been the agent put in charge of securing a profitable area for the Hicks and American Land Companies. He was ordered to secure the finest of areas of the purchase and establish the Hickes name upon it. To complete this order he had to send an individual to establish such a place, and begin the sale of land for development.

Hicksville is founded

Ephiram Burwell was the man Bryan chose to fulfill the job of preparation of the area. He was given explicit instructions. "He was to be cautious in the selection of the site to be named for the Hickes," and secondly, "it was to be placed in the most profitable place to the owners, preferably in the midst of the most valuable timber. Hicks and Smith felt that logging could be done extensively in the area, and with it, settlers, who would buy land holdings.

Burwell arrived in what is now Hicksville, finding a log cabin in the area that is now the crossing of High and Main streets. These were our first actual settlers, but they were residing on the land owned by Hicks and Smith, and thus Burwell is to be given credit for the founding of Hicksville.

Burwell needed a surveyor, and John Bryan sent Miller Arrowsmith to undertake this. In May of 1836, he ventured from an area named Lost Creek, (near present day Farmer, Ohio) leaving his log cabin to plot Hicksville.

On September 3, 1836, the survey was sent to the state auditor, John A. Bryan. The streets were named, and the lots numbered. In 1838, he surveyed the road from New Harrison (near New Haven, Indiana) on the Maumee River to Evansport, Ohio. It is basically followed today by Ohio Route 2. In 1839, his surveying designated Hicksville as a township in Williams County. It was not to become a township in Defiance County until March 4, 1845, when the state legislature divided Williams County. After the surveying of present day Route 2, he was given the job of plotting out a town with John A. Bryan's name as the title. The Antwerp Pike (Ohio 49 south) thru the tremendous swamps between Hicksville and Antwerp was the road Arrowsmith surveyed for in 1840.

In the meantime back in 1836, Burwell recognized the need for a road to transport the abundant timber he envisioned would be shortly removed. There was not a road running north from the Maumee River between Bull Rapids, Indiana (between Antwerp and New Haven) and Defiance, a distance of thirty miles.

Accordingly, a survey was made by Amzi D. Meese in 1836 of a road near the mouth of the Marie DeLarme creek in the northwesterly direction of Newville, Indiana. The survey was made at a cost of $488.93. This follows basically the Clemmer road, Main street, and the Newville road, of present day Hicksville.

In the period of eight months Burwell had spent $12,439 in the

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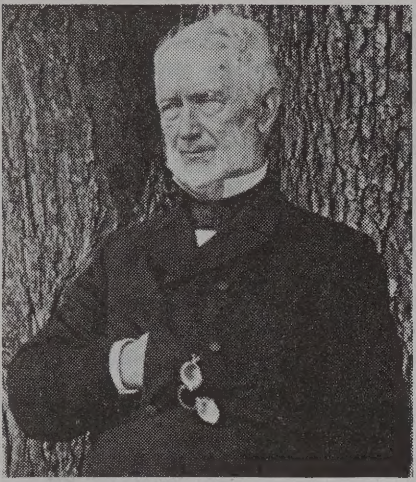


Alfred P. Edgerton

building of this road. This amount was spent by Burwell and crew in the clearing of an area wide enough for a road, rid of the giant trees, secondly; the raising of three log cabins, and the building of a sawmill.

Burwell was an individual of immense fortitude, but he did not possess the vibrant personality of a salesman. He sold no lands, or any cabins, and thus fell into disfavor with the land companies. Henry Hicks realized that a road was needed, and could substantiate Burwells funding of this. But all companies must operate at a profit, and with no revenue returning from Hicksville, Burwell was relieved of his position. Burwell liked the area however, and resided here for many years.

The Hicks Land Company and the American Land Company decided on a new individual to commence operations in Hicksville. Alfred Pelig Edgerton, in April of 1837, began his long journey from New York City, where he had been employed in a counting house for the Hicks Company. He was to be paid a salary of one thousand dollars annually by the Hicks Land Company, and a commission from the other.

He traveled from New York City, to Washington D.C., and then to Baltimore. By rail he journeyed to Frederic West Virginia, and by stage to Wheeling, and Columbus, Ohio. When the stage reached Sandusky he proceeded by steamer to Toledo. He tried to reach Defiance by wagon traveling the route of the Maumee River. He got about as far as the present day Independence Dam when it became apparent that his two feet would be his only successful mode of travel. Here Mr. Edgerton met a fur buyer by the name of Allen Braucher, who would remain a close friend for life.

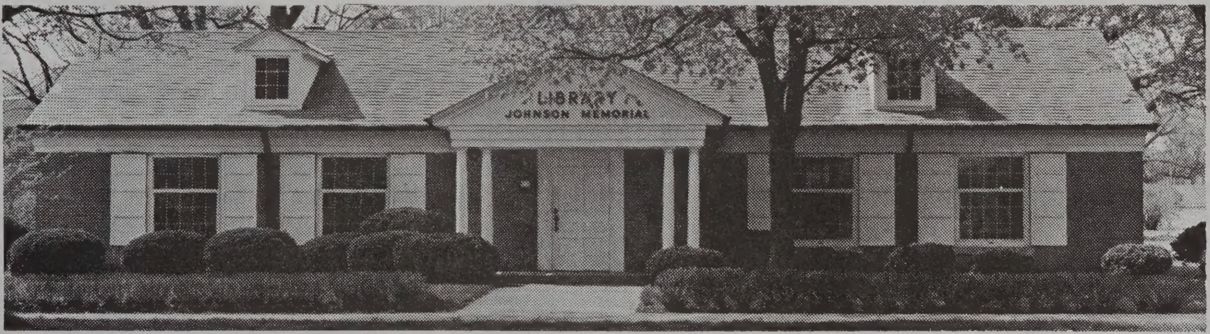
He arrived at Defiance and rested for two days, staying with Calvin L. Noble a fur buyer, and missionary. By foot Edgerton got to the Andrew Clemmer farm at the mouth of the Marie DeLarme creek, which is between Hicksville and Antwerp. He was exhausted from his hike and asked Mr. Clemmer, "if he could borrow his horse to ride to Hicksville." Because of Alfreds traveled appearance he would not allow the horse to be borrowed, in fear that it would not be returned.

Edgerton walked a bit further, and came to the George Platter cabin. Again Alfred asked for the use of the mans horse. Platter agreed with the stipulation that his boy would ride along to insure the horse was returned.

Alfred Edgerton comes to the settlement

A day later, April 17, 1837, A. P. Edgerton, with the young Platter boy

JOHNSON MEMORIAL LIBRARY



Present Johnson Memorial Library Board, seated, left to right, Edith Smith, Carma Rowe, vice-president; Ester Howenstein, treasurer; Goldie Belknap. Standing, Glen Elder, Dr. Allen Hilbert, secretary; Robert Longsworth, president.

Presented to
the Community of Hicksville
by Carma Johnson Rowe

To encourage a desire for good reading and to express love and veneration for her family Wesley L. Johnson, Melissa Karr Johnson and Mabel Johnson in 1953 A.D.

seated in front of him, and seated on a horse, entered Hicksville. Approaching in a southerly direction down North Main street, he found a cabin located in the middle of High and the Main street crossing. Here boarders were kept by Ransom Osborn and family. Edgerton speaks of Mrs. Osborn as, "the neatest of all housekeepers, and the best of all cooks."

He proceeded east and onto High street. Located where the American Building now stands (lot 143), Edgerton dismounted and consumed his first meal at the Buenos Ayres cabin.

Further exploring the settlement he viewed the Ephiram Burwell cabin located at the present day Carl Rohrs used car sales (lot 139). A cabin belonging to Robert Bowles (lot 202) was situated back of the St. Pauls Episcopal Church of modern day. Beside this cabin was a shanty on lot 200. There was a store in a shanty where the Marathon station is seen today (lot 216). Between Cornelia and Smith streets but on the route of South Main street, was a sawmill on lot 18, and a loggers blacksmith shop operated by Ben Davis on lot 17.

Near the present St. Paul Episcopal Church was a white ash stump with the top scooped out. Here Mrs. Osborn pounded corn for the hominey Edgerton so relished. As he stayed longer he found a lasting admiration for a Mr. Hinkle and Parker. They were his most trusted friends at a time when he knew no one discreetly.

Buenos and Sara Ann Ayres were the parents of the first child born (a boy) in Hicksville in 1837. The first death was Samuel Arnold a child who died in 1836. He was buried in the graveyard that was located where our present day grain elevator is situation. The first couple to wed in the village was Allen Parker, and Esther Osborn. They tied the knot on November 14, 1839, in a house.

Mr. Edgerton's first action for the company he represented was the sale of 100 acres of land to Buenos Ayres. His second sale was to Luther Loveland on June 27, 1837. On July 1, 1837, Edward Wood purchased forty acres. His land, was the site of the first log cabin off of the original town platt. August 14, saw James Thomas secure 100 acres, and Ransom Osborn made the last purchase of land in 1837.

These areas sold at the cost of $5.00 per acre. Part of the cash was paid immediately, the other half was credited.

Land prices drop —

panic hits

In late 1837, a harsh economic situation developed. From the Osborn purchase in late 1837 and until 1839, there were only six land sales made. The land speculators went into a panic, as the $5.00 an acre land of the Hicksville area plumented to a $1.00 - $1.25 an acre. The William Cleland Sr., farm was one that sold for a dollar an acre at this time.

Edgerton had a land office situated where the Building and Loan now stands. The actual building is on Main Street, where the Zimmerman and Associates law offices are now situated.

In 1838-39 Edgerton directed the buildings of some grist mills. They were completed at a cost of $20,323. They were burned on December 10, 1840, and were considered a great loss. The Hicks and American Land Companies ordered a new mill built, at a cost of $9,542, and in 1842

Hicksville, Ohio !

1837 – Born !
1875 – Incorporated !
1975 – Still A Great Place To Live !

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construction was completed. This allowed for continuing use until January 9, 1850, when the second mill was burned.

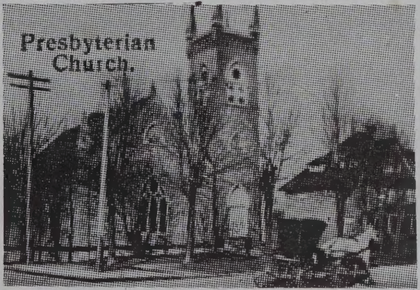
With the completion of some roads, and the sale of land, a post office was needed in 1838. A mail route existed from Fort Wayne to Toledo on the south side of the Maumee River. A post office was located at Cranesville (near Paulding, Ohio). With Hick's influence the government decided to allow a mail route from Cranesville to Hicksville, a distance of eleven miles. On September 29, 1838, A. P. Edgerton became our first Postmaster. Mail was to be delivered on a two week basis, with David Landis contracted to carry the mail to our settlement.

Religion was not the formal event we view today, in our early town. But they did worship, as the first recorded sermon was in the winter of 1837. The Reverend Joseph Miller delivered it at the Ransom Osborn cabin.

In 1840 an intent Methodist preacher came to town and rather informally banded some of our settlers into meetings. These meetings developed into a congregation of Methodists.

In 1841, the United Brethern (present day Trinity United Methodist) formed an actual church here. They would meet in a school building located where the Shell station now stands. They are the oldest organized church in town.

The first church building for worship was built by the Presbyterians. It was located at the corner of Bryan and High street. The different congregations would meet in this building until they built structures of their own. It stood in existence until fire destroyed it in 1961.



Constructed in 1858, the Presbyterians erected Hicksville's first church building. *Photo submitted by Kermit Agler*

With a porch that equaled a mile if traveled around 20 times, the A. P. Edgerton homestead was an elaborate home in its day. The photo, which was taken in the 1890's, shows Mr. Edgerton and his daughter relaxing on the porch. The home was located on the present Johnson Memorial Library site and was large enough to make three present day houses.

Justice did exist in our town in the early days at least in form. Amozi D. Meese was the first Justice of the Peace. He was succeeded by Ransom Osborn and Alonzo Work. A prevalent man of the bar visited Hicksville in April of 1840. Morrison R. Waite, a Chief Justice of the United States Supreme Court, then a Maumee City lawyer, came and visited A. P. Edgerton and his new bride.

The first school was started by Ransom Osborn in 1836. But there is more to this citizen.

Ransom Osborn was residing here before, Ephiran Burwell had given the town it's name. "As soon as he had his family settled, he started for Fort Wayne with a load of wheat and corn, and two yokes of oxen, the former to be converted into flour for the use of the family. The road to Fort Wayne was nothing but a path thru a dense forest. He safely got to Fort Wayne, but on his return came into foul weather. He was freezing to death, and could not get a fire going. Ransom unyoked the oxen, and decided to go for help. But his legs became so numb that he could only travel by groping from tree to tree.

After spending the night in the forest, a Mr. Brant who knew he should have passed his farm on his travel back to Hicksville, went hunting for him. He discovered Osborn nearly dead. Mr. Brant carried him to his cabin, and sent for Osborns wife. They transported him to Hicksville. Here a primative surgery was performed. No anesthetic existed, and with the use of a saw, two doctors from Defiance amputated his leg.

Somehow he survived and provided the education needed by our first settlers. He and five pupils would meet in a small cabin located where the Shell station is now located. As the town grew the pupils, of course, increased.

The recession having subsided in 1841, the area got back on its feet again. Still however, all that was farmed went back to the families table. The canal near Antwerp was not completed by 1843 and the goods that could be had were expensive, thus you made do with what you had.

Edgerton operated his business dealings in his land office in the location of the Building and Loan. But shortly after his marriage he decided to build a home. It was built in 1841, where the library is presently situated. He wanted it built here for sentimental reasons. The day he entered our village there were some Pottawattomi Indians encamped in the area of his proposed house. They were eating and cooking porcupine under a huge beech tree. With the building of the home, which was the talk of the area, and the tales of the tree, the two became conversation pieces for years to come. The house in 1919, was moved in three sections. One part is the Kermit Agler residence on West High Street, the other two are on the end of South Maple Street.

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Phone 542-5635 Hicksville, Ohio

A. P. Edgerton was a general trader, as well as the land agent of the region in 1843. He corn fed pork at $20 per ton dressed and delivered. The pigs which ran at large in the area woods, sold for 10 cents a pound. Salt sold for thirteen bushels of wheat per barrel. Edgerton had to pay $2.50 a barrel for it, and $4.50 a barrel transportation fee from Toledo.

The general laborer would receive from fifty to seventy five cents per day, with the carpenter receiving the highest, of a dollar a day.

To begin farming . . .

When an individual decided he wanted to farm our area, a fee of $10 per acre was charged for the clearing of the trees. The purchase of cotton sheeting sold for 10 cents, a can of rio coffee 20 cents, sugar 12 cents - 16 cents, men's boots $3.50 - $4.50, and women's boots $1.25 - $1.50.

There was a money problem in the area in this time period. Little currency was being brought in and what was, could be of question as to it's worth. Currency of different values called, Michigan "Wild Cat", Indiana "White Dog", "Blue Pup" and other named monies existed. All of this was quite confusing to the settler. To get the Michigan Wild Cat money as legal tender, many in the area became endorsers of the currency. McComb County Michigan Bank money was often seen endorsed "payable at Hicksville by lumber or in flour." The settlers didn't have cash, but did possess a means of purchase thru these notes.

Before the coming of the canal the settler really had no way of economically receiving or delivering his goods. The merchandise that did come to Hicksville came by way of the Maumee River, in keelboats, pirogues or wagon.

The birth of the Wabash Erie Canal, traveling through Antwerp and Defiance, made the need of a road to these points a necessity. The road to Defiance was terrible, and the newly formed county would not approve funds to better it. Edgerton petitioned the Ohio General Assembly and on January 15, 1845, authorization was given to construct a road to Antwerp.

It was done at tremendous hardships but eventually a road was built on the lines of Miller Arrowsmith's former survey of 1840. The cost of the road and the maintenance of a ferry across the Maumee River, near Antwerp came to the total cost of $5000.

Miller Arrowsmith, left, poses with A. P. Edgerton, right, and an unidentified gentleman in this early tin type photo. A surveyor, Arrowsmith, contributed much to plotting the Hicksville area.

Photo submitted by Emily Reed

A toll had to be charged to cross these paths, it thus became known as the Antwerp Pike, a corduroy road. It is our present day Route 49 to Antwerp. Edgerton owned most of the land the road travelled, and when he ceded the land to Paulding and Defiance Counties, he made a clear stipulation — should the road not be properly kept, he would repossess it.

The road to Defiance was eventually improved. From our village to Bean Creek (Tiffin River) near present day Brunersberg, was to be a toll road. It was so named, the Brunersburg Pike. The roads became better traveled and the canals were kept busy with the demands of the farmer, and logger of our town. The fees charged to these people became quite a burden, and were dropped with the Free Turnpike law.

The 1840's primarily because of the canal, and the influxuation of people into the area, provided the town with a population explosion. In 1840 the township consisted of 67, and by 1850 the number had grown to 507.

The forties also brought to town our first resident physicians, Dr. Williams S. Goodale was here for a short time in 1836, but quickly proceeded to Illinois. In 1846, Dr. B. M. Rakestraw established a home here and resided until his death. In 1848 brought Dr. Cosgrove to the village. These two doctors would travel the wooded trails in all weather to help the ill.

The 1840's was also a period of wolf trouble. This canine creature would kill and ravish the young calves, and sheep of our town. The James Maxwell farm was located in the area where the Huber and Buckskin roads now cross. Mr. Maxwell was gone one evening, and their dog was afraid of the wolves that had entered the compounds of a new born calf. Mrs. Maxwell built a fire and relates of hearing the wolves teeth snap in the background. She bravely sat by the fire until the morning, when the wolves left. Her husband would often catch the troublesome creatures in hollow log traps. One time he caught a half a dozen in one try. The treasure of the county paid a premium of $2.50 per scalp for the creature. Wolves all but disappeared by 1852.

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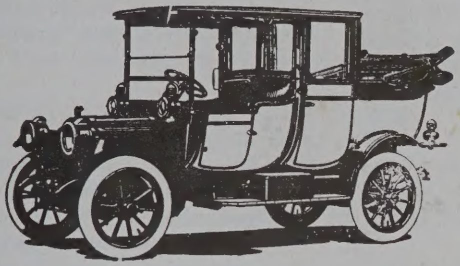
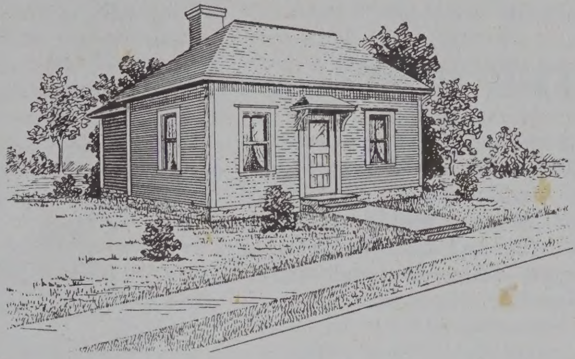
Hicksville, Ohio

In Days Gone By . . . . .





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West High Street

Hicksville, Ohio

Deer were frequently seen in flocks of five to twenty feeding on the farmers wheat fields. The abundance of the venison provided some very tasty meals for our first citizens. Other game that was plentiful in the area were turkey, wolves, some bear and occasionally a wild cat.

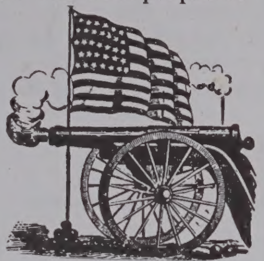
THE 1850's

This time period seems to be one of growth for the town, and a period of disasters. On October 5, 1852, the Hicks Land Company sold it's remaining 40,000 acres to Edgerton. He had sold over 140,000 acres of this area, for the New York based firm.

In Edgertons operation of the land sales, he issued a very liberal policy in regard to payments. Long credits were to be issued, and as long as the settler improved his land holdings, Edgerton did not press for these payments. This resulted in the increase of his already budding sales, and by 1860, 910 people resided here.

In 1850 and upon re-election in 1852, our first Hicksville member of the United States Congress appeared. Alfred P. Edgerton who had served five memorable years in the Ohio State senate (1845-50), did justice to our area, and the Democrat party, as a member of the House of Representatives in Washington.

Tension on the issue of slavery was in the air during this period. "It is told," that the Fugitive Slave law was read before one of the general stores, at Hicksville, in the keen presence of listeners who could not read." The impression should not be taken that the early residents were all illiterate, because most were not. They enjoyed reading any book they could get a hold of, but their work schedule left little time for education purposes.



A small element of our community took the biased approach on the slavery matter. They were sympathetic to the South and secretly joined, "the Knights of the Golden Circle."

In the year 1850 a cannon was brought to town to celebrate the holidays. The young men of the community would rise at 5:00 a.m. to shoot the weapon off every half hour until 10:00 a.m. The cannon stood in the area of the corner of High and Main, where the Palace of Sweets is located. These celebrations would bring the area residents to town for fun and games. Eight saloons would do a thriving business on these days.

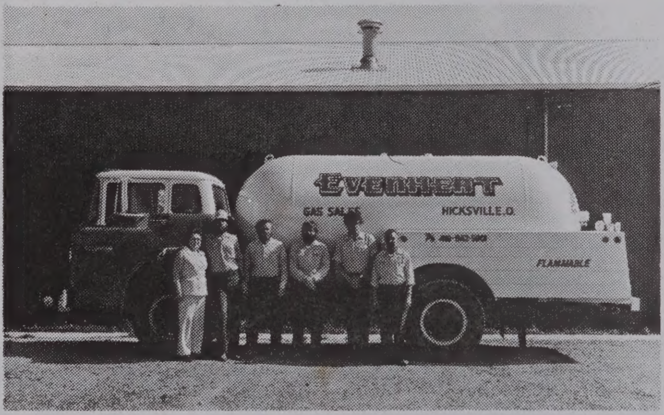
The fun and games continued until July 4, 1854. At 5:30 a.m. the boys loaded up for a second volley. The cannon backfired, and the blast cut a youth by the name of Tom Robertson in half.

The funeral for the youth lasted over two hours, which was quite long for that day. The town feeling a sense of guilt banned the use of the cannon for three years.

It was later stolen by neighboring town gangs, and restolen by Hicksville boys. The cannon eventually disappeared, and is rumored to be buried somewhere in our village.

The town was situated in the area because, of the abundance of timber. With the coming of better transportation methods of the 1850's and 60's, the timber could finally be profitably used.

The Kerr brothers Joseph D., Thomas W., and Robert F., started a lumbering business in Hicksville in 1857. In 1874 it became the Kerr



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Hicksville, Ohio

Brothers and Company Handle Factory. It still exists today under the name Crook and Miller. This Company at one time was the largest manufacturer of handles in the nation.

J. C. Clay started a lumber business in 1863. It was located approximately where the Tuttle & Wittig feed mill now stands. There was a swamp, and creek in this vicinity, called Millcreek. There were other timber interests in the area as well.

1860 and the Civil War

This next decade the sixties brought to head the slavery issue. With the election of Lincoln the South realized there was no means of compromise. Lincoln had made his views quite clear, the United States would stand as one.

The Defiance County effort of mobilization for Lincoln's call of 75,000 men on April 16, 1861, was led by Sidney Sprague. He was a prominent man from Defiance. In less than three days he had enough men to form the Ohio 14th Volunteers to head for Toledo to prepare for the war. They eventually joined McClellan at Cincinnati.

It is not clear whether a Hicksville youth was among this first group to serve. But many from Hicksville and its immediate townships were involved. The 21st Ohio Company had Hicksville members who fought at the battle of Scarcey, on the Kanawa River. Hicksville residents served in the Ohio 38th, 48th, 68th, 100th, 111th, 170th divisions and companies. Other Hicksville boys placed their lives on the line in Companies from Indiana.

During the war, mail was brought to a post office opposite the present day Bob's Auto service. Our postmaster was Isaac Donafin. He lost his life on a Mississippi riverboat after surviving the Battle of Shiloh. His widow later married Captain Thomas Kinmont of the medical corp, our first mayor.

William Kinmont, one of the most scholarly and well educated members of the community, would read the war death list. Standing in front of the post office and reading from, "the New York Weekly", the towns only paper at that time, Kinmont would relate the news of the area dead. One can picture the traumatic experience, at the news of a loved ones loss. Our town contributed to the cause of one united nation, with the sacrifice of her youth.

The post Civil War years

The time proceeding the Civil War period was a time of mental, as well as physical exhaustion for our country. They had fought a long and hard war, and a period of domestic isolationism was settling in. Perhaps it could be compared to our present negative feelings on foreign matters, as a result of the Vietnam fiasco. The people of that time wanted nothing more than to forget the whole rotten mess, just as we try. The country and our town licked its wounds and bounced back, just as it always has!

In 1867 the problem of horse thievery was a lively issue in Hicksville. John M. Ainsworth, a very respected citizen of the village, owned with Alfred P. Edgerton, a general store, which was noted for its sale of farm products. Being located where the Wards store is presently situated.

The horse thieves who were rampant in the area in 1867, were something he felt he must be dealt with. He was instrumental in organizing the Hicksville Detective Society, whose sole purpose was to maintain so called law and order, and to especially apprehend the people who were stealing horses. The citizen was very nervous about the problem, for a horse was a very valuable possession to a person of that day.

Daniel Hilbert had a vast amount of his horses stolen. The Society was then speedily formed. James Casebeer was made president; Mr. Ainsworth, treasurer; Thomas Kinmont was the secretary. The efforts of the Hicksville Detective Society were fruitful in apprehending five of the most notorious area horse thieves, and the problem ceased.

The apprehension of two of these men was not easily done. They escaped the clutches of the group, and were pursued to a woods north of Hicksville. It took a two day hunt by this many membered organization to catch them.

In 1867 justice was rather crude. It took a liberal minded individual, and a man of high moral standards, to see that an accused party received a proper and fair trial. There were few people who regarded an accused person in this light.

The two gentlemen who were caught in the two day hunt are good examples of this. To get them to confess, they were hung upside down, out of the second story window of Mr. Ainsworth's store, until they were nearly dead. The accused then decided it would be to their advantage to repent, and then they were given a trial. The horse thieves were convicted and sentenced to serve a prison term.

The 1870's seem to be a decade of organization for our town. In 1872 Knapp published his famous book on the Maumee Valley. In it he speaks of Hicksville and its healthful artesian wells. He further mentions a road going thru our village to Fort Wayne and Detroit.

With the problem of horse thievery

Fountain Manor Nursing Home

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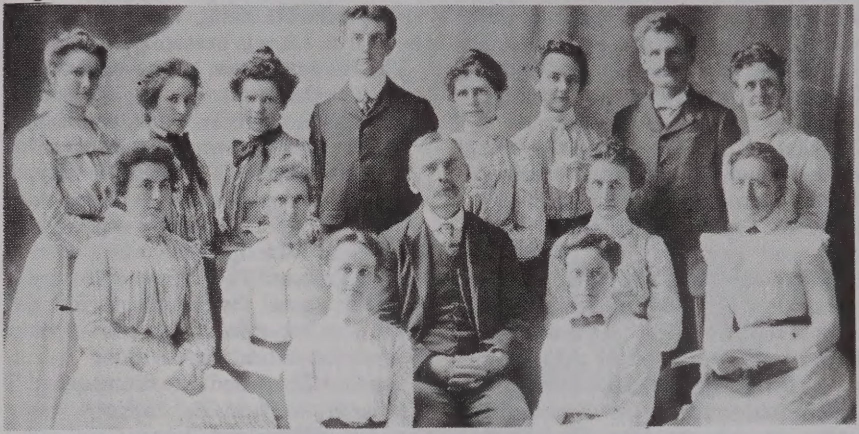
subsided, and the growth of the town expanding, a more organized school system was needed.

In March of 1873, a special election was held to determine if a special school district was desired, up to this time it was called a district school. The voters choice was 59-3 count in favor of the issue, and a school district was begun.



With the coming of schools, teaching staff was needed for Hicksville's youngsters. This group of educators was taken sometime between 1900 and 1905. Pictured are, kneeling, and . Second row, left to right, Nora Shaffer, Angie Wright, Supt. A. D. Rank, Stella Peacock and Elizabeth Gullam. Back row, Irene Hays Pinkerton, Bessie Helsel, , Estel Lilly, Nellie Wilderson, , O. P. Bevington and Lilly Moore.

Photo submitted by Mrs. Beulah Hopkins

The next order of business was the selection of a school board. Serving on the board at one time or another, in years 1874 through 1883: 1874 - William Warner; 1875 - D. G. Huffman; 1876 - J. D. Phillips, who resigned in 1878; 1877 Rev. S. S. Hyde who also resigned in 1878. In 1878 three members were selected J. C. Clay, U. E. Babb, J. M. Ainsworth; the years 1878-1882 brought A. Summers, James E. Coulter, J. C. Clay and A. D. Randolph.

Henry Harris was the first Superintendent in the newly formed school district. He was succeeded by E. J. Miller 1875-77; O. B. Tannehill 1877-79; F. M. Priest remained a few months in 1879, with T. Reese Millison serving the remainder of that year and until 1882.

In 1874 a brick school building was completed. The contractors had estimated the cost at $7,400, but with recent additions and interest costs the sum nearly doubled.

In 1883 there were seven departments, and a curriculum for twelve years of study in this school.

There were other schools outside of the village. These were usually of the one room style. In the rural and in the town schools, reading, writing, ciphering and discipline were the orders for the day, and not necessarily in that order.

The first business to be on record in the Defiance County Court house as being incorporated, was the Hicksville Stove Company. On August of 1873, two hundred shares were issued at a dollar each; with a total of $20,000 Capital stock. Jonathon D. Phillips; J.

Look Back
To See How Far
We've Come since
those horse and buggy days! Look forward to see where we're going . . . and the sky's the limit! Ours is a town on the move, thanks to vision, determination, and just plain hard work on the part of our local businessmen.

Past history is fun to contemplate, but a rosy, prosperous future is nicer yet, don't you think?

The past is gone. We must use the present to build a progressive, prospering community for the future. It's time to look ahead.

Poper's
Gas For Less

FORT WAYNE ROAD
HICKSVILLE, OHIO

Once a major mode of travel through the area, railway service has now declined. The former Hicksville B & O depot was once a hub of local activity. Photo submitted by Kermit Agler

D. Oltley; E. J. Luideirberger; Jonas Colby; and Ferris Colby were the directors of this company which specialized in custom made stoves.

The year 1873 was also one of a financial panic. In "Howe's Historical Collections of Ohio," on page 548 is cited an episode in that year involving one of our most prominent citizens.

"Alfred P. Edgerton was worth between $800,000 and $1,000,000, and he was helping his brother, Lycurgus Edgerton, who was doing business in New York. His brother had only his verbal promise for surety, and when the panic of 1873 came around and caused him to fail to the extent of $250,000, Edgerton was not legally responsible for his debts. Nevertheless, he paid every dollar of them, though in doing so it cost him the larger part of his fortune. In order to get the ready money he had to sell valuable stocks, such as the Pittsburg, Fort Wayne and Chicago railroad stock, and others which are now way above par, but which went at a sacrifice. Upon Edgerton's friends urging him not to pay these debts of his brother, stating that he could not be held for them, he replied that the legal obligation made no difference to him. He had promised his brother that he would be his surety, and had he made no such promise he would have paid his brother's debts rather than see his notes dishonored."

Hicksville was a growing community but with the age of the railroad at hand, a line did not exist through Hicksville in 1873. The canals were all but gone in the area. Shipping was either done by rail or wagon, and our village wanted a rail system.

As early as 1836 the community had tried to get a railroad through. A bill was introduced in the Ohio Senate by General John E. Hunt, senator, "To incorporate The Brunersburg and Hicksville Railroad Company." William D. Haymaker, Gilman C. Mudgett, Rufus Kibber, Samuel Mapes, and Ephiram Burwell, were appointed commissioners to receive stocks subscriptions. The capital was $100,000. It was a line to run between Brunersburg, (a town near Defiance) to Hicksville, and to the Indiana state line, to be completed in five years. This area was much to wild for this to ever materialize.

The second proposed railroad project was in 1851-52. The Junction railroad company wanted to place a line between Toledo and the Indiana state line. It was to go through either Bryan or Hicksville. The Junction Company could not get the needed cooperation from the other railroad companies and sold its charter of our area to the "Toledo and Illinois Railroad Company." It eventually became the Wabash Railroad which put a line through Antwerp. The "Air Line," put a railroad system through Edgerton and Bryan and it was felt Hicksville would probably never get its own line.

A. P. Edgerton believing a line would never be put through Hicksville moved to Fort Wayne in 1857. He still spent considerable time here, and lived here during the summer months.

With the comings of 1870 a railroad line was to be built through Defiance County. It would however miss our town, and was to travel through Newville, Indiana. The citizens of Hicksville met and wondered what could be done.

The leader of our community, A. P. Edgerton, acted as spokesman. He reportedly told Joe Bunnel, his farmer and workman, "go home and curry up my best riding horse at once. I'm starting for Baltimore, Maryland, to see what I can do." He met with the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad Board. He offered them a proposition they could not refuse! Edgerton was all in favor of our community, one he had traveled to when just a youth. He had viewed its growth and recognized that it was, quite the place to live. He told the Railroad Board, "if you will deflect the proposed route ten degrees to the southwest, and go through a town called Hicksville, I will give you the land right of way through Defiance County." The board agreed, and had they not, it is left to ones imagination as to how much larger our community would have grown.

On March 13, 1872, the B & O, Pittsburg and Chicago Railroad Company filed it's certificate of organization at Columbus. It proposed to construct a railroad that would run from the Pennsylvania Ohio line in Mahoning County, to a point on the Indiana-Ohio line. The B & O provided the capital and on June 10, 1874, 878 miles of track had been laid to Defiance. Finally on August 13, 1874, at 1:35 p.m. a train went through at twenty miles per hour, whistling all the while.

George A. Patterson, our recently deceased honored citizen and champion king of enchantment, relates in one of his papers the new world opened by the coming of the railroad.

The railroad was a constant source of joy and wonder as the people awaited the scheduled trains. On

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Sunday afternoons people in groups walked along the tracks. They even took basket lunches in the summer time and picnicked along the right of way. Many families and groups put pennies on the rails for the fast lines to run over and flatten. The "railroad" penny souvenir was all the rage. Isaac Hackman, the town gravedigger, had a collection of more than fifty Petoskey stones and unclaimed run over pennies before 1880. These he had gathered up on pleasant Sunday afternoon hikes along the tracks. Evening and late afternoon trains were met by groups of girls, the train personal were their hero's. Boys were not boys unless they had jumped at least one freight train to ride as far as the Scipio bridge. Here they would buy five cents worth of crackers and cheese at a grocery store located here, and return to town. Mothers were constantly giving stern admonitions to the boys not to jump trains.

President Hayes smashed at least 100 pennies on his trip through town the campaign year of 1876. Charles Bassett, was a young and ardent suitor of Carrie Ainsworth. He was being carried through town on a fast line to Garrett. He looked out the window and saw Carrie waving at him from the Ainsworth front door. The sight was overpowering and he jumped off the fast moving train and broke a leg.

The railroad brought its tragedies too. Several people were killed by accidents. Mrs. Bungard was run down by a fast line in the early 80's. She was the grandmother of Charles Bungard and was raising the little boy. As a result the United Brethren Church members unofficially adopted little Charles. Sewing bees were held to clothe him properly. It paid off. Charles grew up to be their Sunday School Superintendent for more than 40 years.

On a hot quiet afternoon in 1879 a fast line was derailed near Elm and East Cornelia Streets seriously injuring 121 people and killing 19. People rushed over to "ah and oh" and gape. But it took only one glance from Hannah Simpson, the mother of Mrs. Lillie Pettit, to see the need. People were moaning, bleeding, and dying along the side of the overturned coaches. She organized a quick Red Cross relief. According to the conventional demands of the time all "nice women wore at least three petticoats — amply gathered all around. Mrs. Simpson rushed in, ripped off her top petticoat, began to tear it into bandages to the wonder of everyone. It was soon gone. The second one came off also! ! Done right before the wide eyes of the male population too! ! And wonder of wonders she tore off the sacred third one and it went the way of all needed bandages. In an age when a feminine ankle was never seen, only on rainy days."

Incorporation

With the further growth expected because of the railroad, and the evident need of a formal city government, incorporation talk was heard.

In May of 1875, a petition was sent to the Secretary of the State. He received it on May 15, 1875, and this is the date the state of Ohio records the village as having filed for incorporation. The petition reads as follows. "Upon the Journal of said (not legible) to the effect that the corporation as named and asked for in this petition may be organized as aforesaid, that a complete certified transcript of all the proceedings and orders herein may be made out, signed, and delivered together with this petition and accompanying that and all other papers on file in this case, to the recorder of said County of Defiance as required by the statute in such case made and provided."

The following people signed the petition: B. M. Rakestraw, J. W. Babbage, H. Bevington, A. Summers, Israel D. Stull, S. T. Kinsey, William A. Maxwell, R. J. Wirt, J. S. Miller, S. B. Miller, Jonas Lower, H. Fish, John W. Aleck, H. C. Weldon, F. C. Biglow, Martin Zimmerman, Jacob Powell, L. W. Kerr, G. C. Hood, T. W. Bugle, J. M. Cahill, B. Davis, J. T. Arnold, J. C. Clay, Charles Barr, D. J. Crowl, John Burger, G. Fish, John A. Miller, O. B. Brey, D. S. Babbit, T. C. Kinmont, W. Richards, B. F. Casebeer, W. H. Richards, John Wise, L. Barkman, J. F. Thompson, G. L. Casebeer, G. O. Coburn, John Swilley, Julia G. Donafin, J. M. Ainsworth, J. L. Bevington, R. Wallace, John Warner, J. A. Parker, John Stull, Joseph Stull, Joseph D. Kerr, John Dowell, J. B. Moon, David Peeper, Charles H. Rowland, S. A. Boon, L. C. Carpenter, E. J. Reisch, F. W. Colby, S. W. Fish, Condrad Thoruau, G. Clemmer, C. A. Weaver, D. G. Huffman, F. Britton, C. S. Grakauce, C. C. Lehman, John Parkerton, Issac Hackman, John Steel, J. M. Boon, A. Goodric, J. S. Bunnell, M. R. Wilsons, Johan Smitt, Amelia K. Simpson, A. Heidley, A. J. Wort, N. E. Babb, Two that are very unlegible possibly are; Wm. Fanrey and A. Weber.

With the town filed for incorporation, the selection of officials were needed. A young Doctor, and veteran of the Civil War, with a limp as proof, was their selection as Mayor. Thomas Kinmont has the distinction of being the first Mayor of Hicksville. Chosen as clerk was Henry Bevington, who was shortly succeeded by R. D. Wirt.

Some of the early ordinances passed at the first Council meeting on April 8, 1876, are interesting. The first involves the building of sidewalks in the village. They were to be construced of oak and pine 1¼ inch thick and of four feet widths. Most of the first sidewalks were on Main Street, High Street, and some on Cornelia and Smith Streets. They were to be built where the foot traffic was the most intense. A Street Commissioner was appointed to watch over this work.

The month of May in 1876 also brought out a rash of ordinances. The first passed made it unlawful for any person or persons, driving or having charge of any wagon, cart, drag, or other vehicle, or riding, leading or driving any horse or other animal, to stop or stand at any street crossing or sidewalk, to obstruct passage. A fine not to exceed twenty dollars would be levied.

Vice seems to be the next issue of May. Anyone found intoxicated would be fined a $1.00 - $10.00. Secondly anyone found engaged in chance or gambling was to receive a fine of $1.00 - $10.00. Finally any person heard cursing foul language, or displaying any part of the human body in a lewd

— COMPLIMENTS OF —

Mr. and Mrs. R. A. Noffsinger

In Recognition of the Hicksville Centennial

manner, would be charge $1.00 to $10.00.

There are some other interesting ordinances passed in the early beginnings of our incorporated village. A number deal with the appropriations of funds for the building of the wooden sidewalks in town.

The town was rather a wild place, partly because of the manner of the times, another reason perhaps the number of taverns. There are many ordinances passed to prove this point. Anyone assulting or threatening in a menacing manner or to provoke a breech of peace, was to be fined $1.00 to $50.00. Any individual forming a riot or noisey gathering were to be fined $1.00 to $50.00. To curb the drinking on weekends the saloons were to close at 10:00 a.m. on Sunday. To violate this resulted in a fine of up to $25.00 for the first offense, and to repeat the offense could result in a thirty day stay in jail and up to $50.00 fine. Finally in July of 1877 to help the marshal enforce these ordinances, funds were provided by council for a jail. It was to be of iron construction and with ½ inch thick bars spaced 1¾ inch apart. The bars were to be rivited to steel, with a heavy chain to loop over the staples to lock the door.

The Defiance County Fair moved to Hicksville attracting crowds from throughout the county. Note the styles of the early fairgoers who travelled the "Pike," now known as the midway.

Photo submitted by Kermit Agler

Until 1878 the Defiance County Fair had always been held in Defiance in the area of the present Bargain City store. In the 1870's ground was provided to move the fair to Hicksville. In 1878 our village hosted the first fair, and it has become an annual occasion. We are familiar with attending the fair in late August. It used to be held in September when the children would greatly enjoy a little vacation from school.

The 1870's also brought our first fire department. There were to be no more than forty members. The chief engineer was required to wear a hat with his name on it and carry a speaking trumpet at all fires!

The railroad brought the need of moving the cemetery located where the High Street viaduct is. It was quite the eerie site to watch the wooden caskets pass through town being moved to the Forest Hill Cemetery. When they were moved, and the railroad was completed the farmers elevator was begun in the general location of our present elevator silos.

The 70's also saw the building of two churches. In 1873 Mr. Edgerton donated over seven thousand dollars to build the St. Pauls Episcopal, which still stands just as it did in that age. In 1878, the Church of Christ was built. In this same year the Methodists built

The Metz family now operating the business left to right — Bill Metz, Tom Metz, Eloise Metz and Kevin Metz.

Lowell D. Metz started business March 1, 1950.

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Metz Clothing Store

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a church at the corner of Edgerton and Main. The wooden structure was used as a basketball court in the 1920's. It was then torn down and a house was built there. A. P. Edgerton donated five hundred dollars to each church for the building of their individual modes of worship. The exception to this was the Church of Christ, which had its own lot and asked only $100.00, and the Episcopal of which he entirely paid for.

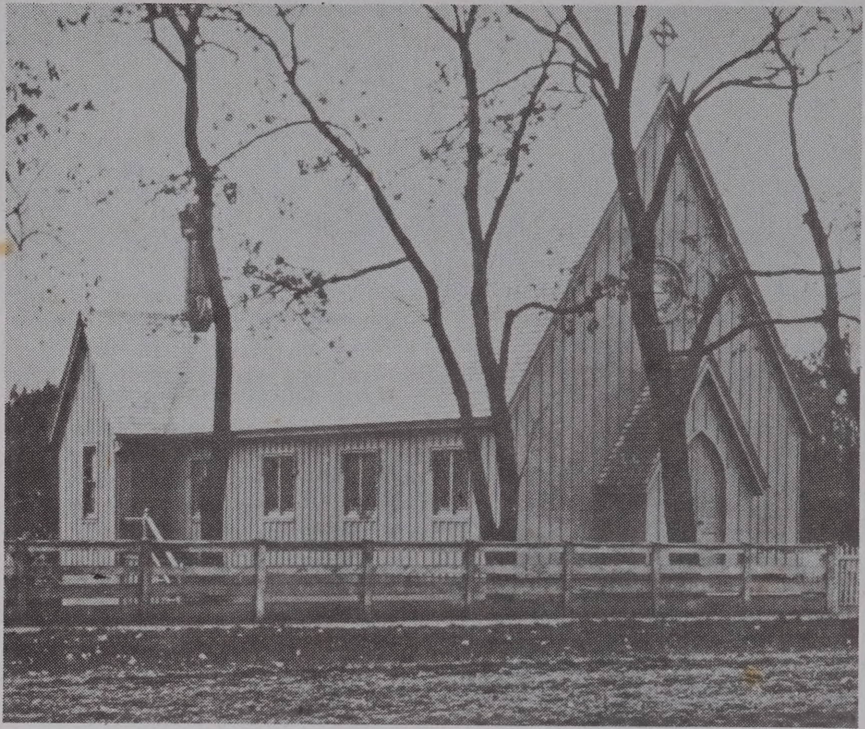
THE 1880's

The first sewers were installed in July of 1880. They were of nine inch diameter, and would be on the northwest side of High Street and Smith. The butchers of the community were given stern warnings not to let dead animal remains flow into this system!

The early part of 1880 saw further development of the Fish Sawmill and Clay Sawmills. It being eventually bought out by the Millers.

The first Catholic Church was built in this ten years at a price of $1200. Mr. Edgerton donated the land to Father Fredrick Rupert and his congregation.

On the opposing end of religion was



A. P. Edgerton donated the full cost of building the Saint Paul's Episcopal Church, which is now Hicksville's oldest religious landmark. The church, dedicated to his wife, was completed in 1873 and still stands across from the Edgerton homestead, which is now the site of the Johnson Memorial Library on West High Street.

Photo submitted by Mrs. Waldo May

Congratulations To Hicksville
On Their 100th Year (A Nice Place To Live)

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McDonald Hardware and Appliances

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Max and Carole McDonald

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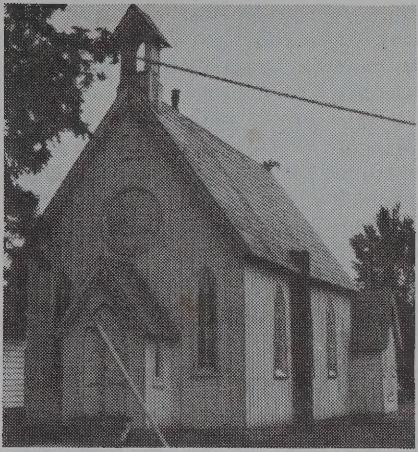


Constructed in 1880 the first Saint Michael's Catholic Church stood at the corner of West Edgerton Street, near the present Goldenetz supermarket. The church was destroyed by workmen in 1969.

Photo submitted by Mrs. Myrtle Schliesser

of course crime. To properly reform the culprits of the town, and to hold them, a jail was needed, Lots 218 through 222 were then donated for this purpose.

The anti drinking factions were also at work in our town in this time period. Hicksville was rather wild with at least eight saloons. The W.C.T.U. of the town felt that the elimination of the, "devil inspired liquid" would eliminate the rowdy atmosphere created by these establishments. With this, Mayor James E. Coulter was persuaded to sign into local existence a dry Sunday law. No liquor could be purchased by our local citizens on Sundays unless they possessed a Doctors prescription. To further enhance that our citizens would be morally acceptable, it was decided that the billiard halls would close at 10:30 p.m. and not to be opened until 5:00 a.m.

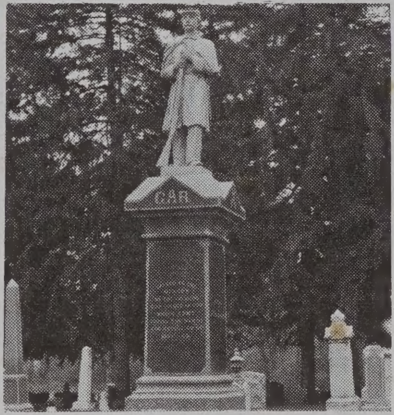
Walking across the intersection of High and Main, Mrs. M. M. Farnsworth stepped on the wooden sidewalk wrong, and evidently received quite a whack. She tried to sue the village for $10,000 damages, but received only a $300 judgement, and reportedly a bit of unpopularity from the incident.

Trouble in the 1880's from chimneys not made of brick were a problem. The village then decided to make it manditory to only use chimneys made of this substance.

Most of the streets of the village were of mud in the 1880's. But in 1881 money was appropriated for gravel for Smith Street.

In this time period there seemed to be a prevalent problem of unpaid fines. It was then decided by council to make these offenders work for the town, filling in chuck holes, and other laborious tasks for the fee of 75 cents an hour until the fine was paid. The law abiding local citizen also had to spend two days a year in labor for the village. If a substitute could be found, that too was legal.

To remember the fine citizen Issac Donafin, a Grand Army of the



The Grand Army of the Republic Memorial monument is located in Forest Home Cemetery commemorates the lives given by Hicksville Sons in defense of their country.

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Republic post was formed. It consisted of sixty eight members in 1881.

The soldiers monument which we now view at Forest Hill Cemetery, was quite a controversy in its time. Some of the citizens, as had Edgerton, Ohio, wanted to place the statue in the center of High Street. The group who wanted to place it in the cemetery eventually won. A. P. Edgerton gave a speech of commemoration for it, with many other dignitaries in attendance.

One of the biggest stores of the town the J. M. Ainsworth General Store merged to become Ainsworth, Boon and Bevingtin. It was a location specializing primarily in farm uses. The buildings we presently view housing the recently moved Haver Furniture and across the street were built in 1881 and 1882. With the many travelers of the town the Baltimore House located on the right hand side of the High Street viaduct traveling East, were doing a thriving business. It was a two story structure of beauty, in later years the upper story was removed, it still stands. The other boarding house the Swilley House, which was located where our present Hicksville Bank is, was also constantly filled with travelers.

The Ringling Brothers Circus made a visit to the town in this time period. They performed in the northwest corner of Main and Cornelia in the area of the present Perkins, Reeb and Weber funeral home. This was near the edge of town and the wild game of our village reportedly made the caged animals a bit nervous.

1883 saw an outbreak of typhoid fever. Possibly 102 cases were treated by Doctors Babbit, Kinmont, Rakestraw and Combs. It was a frightful period, but as tragedy always does, the community became much closer.

The year 1884 saw Hicksville's first private bank go under. Ecekiel Otis was the proprietor of the institution.

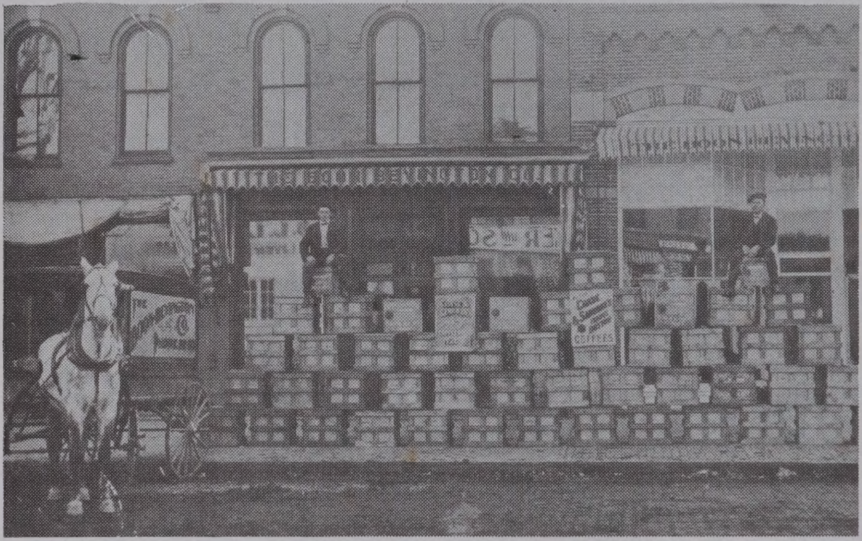
THE 1890's

The gay nineties brought with it a population of 2141 in the village and 3314 in the township. This also was the beginning of new conveniences for the town. The modernization of the water works system was begun. The Albert Smith family (Walters father) became so intricate, that they had one of the first bath tubs with plumbing.

One of the biggest Opera Houses between here and Chicago was built in this period. The Huber Opera house would play host to many stars in its years, as well as presently featuring the latest cinema flicks.

Another function we still use in 1975 is the Building and Loan. It is the oldest financial institute in town, being founded on January 11 of 1890.

In 1892 a marvelous new invention had been perfected well enough for use throughout the nation and in Hicksville. Kidder Haymaker and George Simmons were contracted by the village to set up the first telephone system. They were not alone in this business for long. By 1897, there were



George Hoff, left, and Charles Battershell, right, posed with Chase and Sanborn's Coffees in front of the Boon Bevington Company General Store. The buildings are the present day H & H Catalog Agency, Denny's Used Furniture and The Open Door on East High Street.

Photo submitted by James Battershell Sr.

Harkey's Restaurant
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Hicksville, Ohio

Huber Opera Block, which now houses the Huber Theatre, once hosted many notable theatrical performers of the late 1800's.

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The Hicksville Grain Company

1914—1975

In July of 1914 The Hicksville Grain Company became a reality. The L. A. Pugh Elevator, built in the 1890's was purchased for $10,500.00 and 115 persons were signed up for one share of stock each. The Hicksville Grain Company was in-corporated and capitalized at $20,000.00. It was thru the efforts of William Hirzel, Peter Walters, George Henning, Arthur Allen and Charles Howenstine that this was accomplished.

The original 115 shares have increased to the present 1127 Class A and 52 Class B.

In 1921 the company was re-organized from a stock company to a co-operative basis in which each member, if profits were made, would be rewarded in proportion to the amount of business done with the company.

In April of 1923 we purchased the Koch Grain Company. This property consisted of an elevator, a coal shed and a detached office. This elevator was operated for three years as an auxiliary and then discontinued. The old original elevator was speeded up and made to carry the work of the two.

In 1939 we purchased the First National Bank Building, corner of Main and High Streets and after dismantling the buildings a gas station was erected. We continued in this venture until 1950 when the station was sold but we continued the tank truck deliveries.

In 1943 we purchased the Hees property. The brick building (built in 1888) which at one time was a thriving flour mill was converted to a feed and merchandise warehouse and is in use today.

Three years later the "Four Store" building was purchased and is used today for fertilizer, seed, chemicals and miscellaneous storage.

In 1953-54 the new concrete elevator, cob house and office was built. This gave us a capacity of 125,000 bushels, which seemed at the time would be all the storage that would be needed. But in 1961 it was necessary to add an annex of 119,000 bushels. These five large bins have aeration and thermal registration. Most of this extra room was used in 1963.

In 1964 a warehouse for bulk fertilizer was constructed. It has six compartments with a capacity of about 600 tons.

In 1965 the large Randolph drier was installed. Again in 1967 more storage was needed so another 120,000 bushel silo was erected. Within five years we again out-grew our storage facilities so in 1972-73 two large silos capable of storing 240,000 bushels was added. This gave the elevator a capacity of 675,000 bushels. Also a new gas drier was installed to replace the old inside fuel oil drier.

In 1972 two outside dumps were installed which made it easier to dump hopper wagons. A high-speed leg was also added to speed up the dumping process which helps us take care of our customers faster.

A 24 inch auger was installed in 1973 which facilitates moving the grain faster.

In wheat harvest of 1974 we first used the new testing house. This enables us to test the grain before it gets to the dumping area.

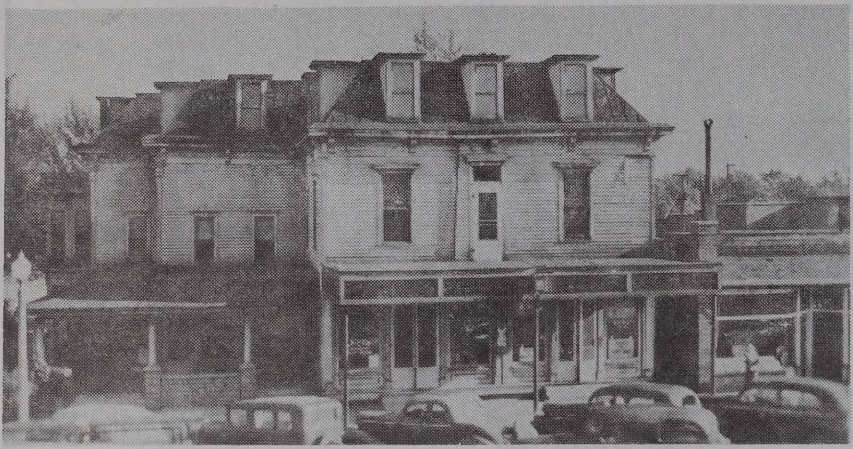
At this time (March, 1975) it has been approved to put two fourteen foot screen-cleans on the Randolph drier to stop any red-dog pollution.

In the 61 years that The Hicksville Grain Co. has been in business there have been only eight managers. William Hirzel, James Seevers, and George Henning shared in managing the business until 1918, followed by Christ Koch who was manager until early 1919. It was in May of 1919 that Hollis Grover was employed and he served as manager until March of 1971. Harold Gobrogge was hired as Assistant Manager in September of 1969, accepting managerial duties when Mr. Grover resigned.

In September of 1973 Mr. Gobrogge suddenly passed away. Mr. Grover came out of retirement to help out until a new manager could be procured. In December, 1973, Richard Stimmel accepted the position.

Current board members are: Pres. Derrill Kline, Vice president, Frank Finzer, Secretary, Dennis Slattery and Directors Ralph Thimlar, Herbert Ringenberg, Rodney Scoville and Wendell Meek.

Current employees are: Manager Richard Stimmel, Assistant Manager Kenneth Metz, Jay Volkert, Donald Foust, Melrose Coon, Walter Amaden, Joan Bailey, Virgil Hogue and Richard Haller.



Located where the Hicksville Bank now stands, the Swilley House once accomodated many travelers passing through our town. One of which, was Lloyd Bingham, who fell in love with Swilley's daughter Amelia.
Photo submitted by Mrs. Margie (Boone) Elder

more ordinances listed for telephone poles, and equipment. By July of 1898, "The Central Telephone Company," was given the right to erect poles, lines, and establish communications in the town. The average household was not in possession of this convenience until the late 1910's and 20's. The businesses were the possessors of the early phone.

The horse was the most common means of transportation, second only to the foot, in the 90's. To keep the animal while you went about your business, town livery stables were available. They were located beside the Swilley House, behind the Huber Opera House, and a livery stable with enough hitching posts for all the horses in town, was located in the vicinity of the present Union 76 gas station.

The citizen of our community was sometimes a bit negligent with the use of his animals. The law stepped in, and horses or any animal, was not to be ridden on the boardwalks. It seems the weight was a bit much for these structures to hold.

The year 1896 seems to be one for the young people of the community. A new school building was built, by the father of Carma Rowe, Wesley Johnson and his construction company. To aid the parent in this year, the village stepped in. They decided that all persons under the age of 16 would be off the streets, and at home by 8:00 p.m. A ringing of a bell was sounded, and all kids abided by this, or their parents were fined $50.00.

The city fathers in 1897 had plans for a work house. It never materialized.

To alleviate the unsafe speed the trains were traveling through town, council imposed a five mile per hour speed limit, when the trains traveled in the incorporation limits.

The railroad trains also provided a profession for the growing youth of the village. Telography was taught above the present day Thriftway Store, by Henry Berger. They called this place of learning, "the Te Leg College."

War entered the picture in 1898, when the United States filed articles of conflict against the Spanish. Few citizens of our town enlisted in this hasty show of power.

The many people who traveled High Street, created a very dusty situation in 1899. Also when rain would come, the wagons often sunk a foot or more into this street. Council gave its approval to pave a brick street on High Street from Bryan Street to Pearl Street. The settings of curbs, gradings, and retaining walls, were also a part of the task. The village agreed to pay a third of the cost, with the rest being taxed by people who owned land along its proposed route. The highest payment made was by Maria Swilley of $671.47, the average payment was around fifty dollars.

The town had all sorts of visitors in this time period. The saloons were doing a thriving business. To build the road brought the Milinex gang, a

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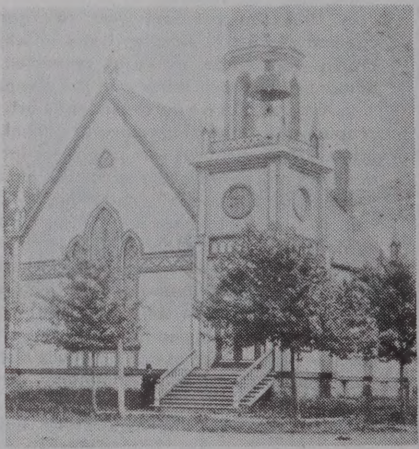


Replaced in 1899 by a new structure the first Grace Methodist Church, located at the corners of South Main and Edgerton Streets where the Alma Mentzer house now stands, was used as a National Guard meeting place and a basketball court.
Photo submitted by Harold Mohr

group of men with tremendous road building talents, strength and drinking capacity.

In coherence with all, "so called evil," is always the guiding light. The United Brethern Church was built and a new Methodist Church was raised to replace their old structure in the 1890's.

The Enos ~~Raft~~ RATH murder

The end of the 19th century left us with one of the most intriguing incidents in our village history. At 1:00 a.m. Saturday, November 25, 1899, Enos Raft, our night marshal was beaten to death.

It seems there was a "bawdy house" located in the area across the street from our present day American Legion. The night watchman, Raft, was looking into the windows of this house. At this point someone came out of the house, and gave him a severe beating. Mrs. Mohr, and Mr. and Mrs. Charles Wires witnessed the screams, and saw three men beating someone they could not recognize. They later found out it was Enos Raft. Mrs. Wires finally screamed, and the attackers fled.

Mr. Wires rushed to the scene after the attackers fled, to find Enos Raft still breathing. He and the other two who had viewed the incident, walked him to the Swilley house where he died, thirty minutes later. He gave a vivid description of the people who assulted him, but nothing valid.

A reward was offered for the capture of the guilty party. From Oakwood, a pack of bloodhounds were brought in. The people were so excited at the incident few tracks could be found, as they themselves trampled the village for any evidence. Eventually through use of the bloodhounds, a trail was scented to a place on the corner of Spencerville and Chicago Avenue. Here Mr. Lavy viewed a rig he had never seen before leave his barnyard.

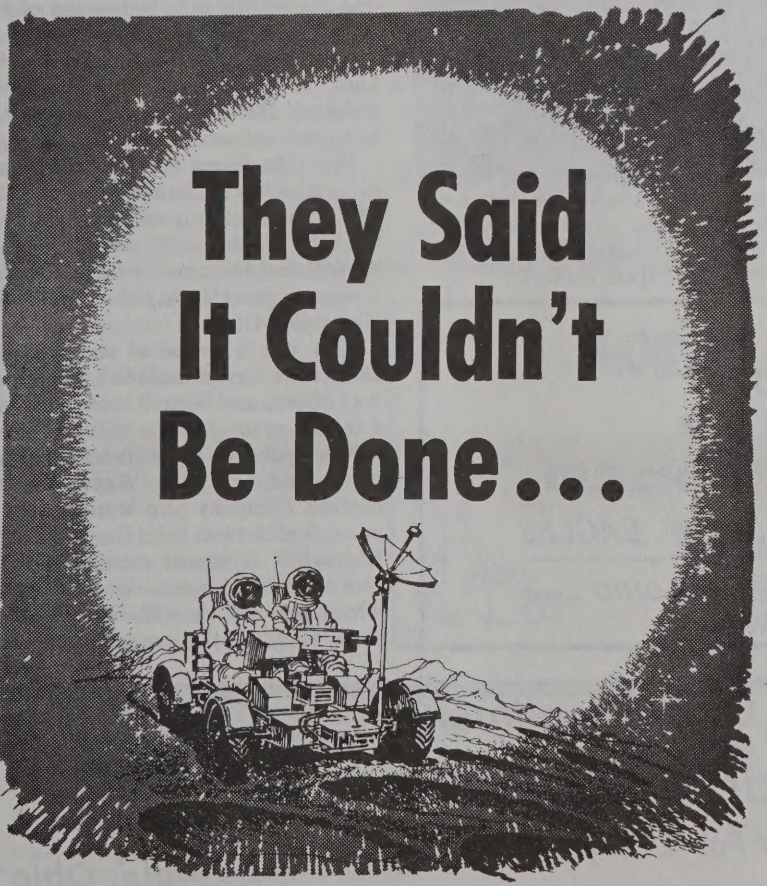
The evening of the murder three youths from Antwerp, Frank Zuber, Ed Johnson and Floyd Rumbough, were asked to leave the Huber Opera House. They had created a series of disturbances within the structure. They then purchased a rig and said their destination was Payne. They returned the rig at 4:00 a.m. with the horse in bad condition. One of the youths had his hand badly bruised, and when asked about it he replied, "I had been in a big fight." Some citizen had told the Marshal of their remarks, and three were apprehended.

After their apprehension, the citizens of the community were in a period of mutiny. They wanted these boys to be dealt with as they felt any murder should be dealt with — death! The eye for an eye style of justice prevailed in that period, but one did at least get what was called, a fair trial. The boys were moved to the jail at Defiance for their safety.

As news of the incident spread, a pair of pipe tongs were found near the Wilderson furniture store, located where Sam Yoder Reality now stands. It was classified as the murder weapon. The officers billy club and his pair of steel nippers were later found in a ditch on Cornelia Street. Finally as news of the incident spread it was reported a fourth man was involved in the murder.

The three Antwerp youths were convicted and sent to the Ohio Penitentiary. Edward Johnson died in the prison in January of 1902, and the other two were eventually pardoned by the Governor. The three men avowed to the day of their deaths of their innocence.

The facts that have now been



The moon and beyond. Once a dream. Now, reality. Progress has put the universe in reach . . and given communities like ours prosperity, and hope for a promising tomorrow.

Cleland
Card Room

East High Street
Hicksville, Ohio

presented is the official version of the Raft murder. A more realistic story of the murder is shared by most of our older citizens. It is believed that the murder was done by local talent. Their theories seem to follow the view that these Antwerp boys were framed.

A more probably story is told: The four local men who shall not be named because of unavailable proof, were visiting this house of lust. They spotted the night watchmen peering in the window, fearing Raft would make their doings public, they beat him to stifle his report. They attacked him so badly that he shortly after died.

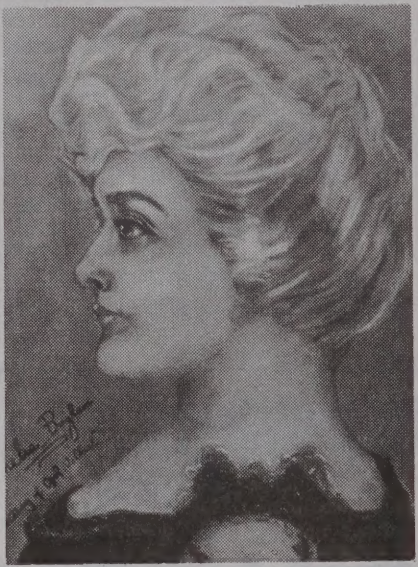
It is remarkable Raft lived for even a period of a half hour after the incident. Citizens who re-call the act, clearly state that Rafts head was so disfigured after the beating, that the attach should have ended his life at the scene of the crime.

The three youths from Antwerp were in town that night, and were known to have been a bit rowdy at times in the past. The four Hicksville men then followed through with a cover-up, that relieved them of all guilt. One must ponder the cries of their conscience, and the effect that this would have had upon them. It would be something they would have to live with for the rest of their lives. Reportedly, when one of the four Hicksville men was on his death bed, he became delirious. Shortly before dying he gave a story implicating his guilt, and three other well known men of the community.

The citizens of the town also must bear a part of the blame for this. It is pretty clear that the Antwerp youths were framed, and most of the community sensed this. It is sad, "but often equal justice applies only to certain segments of society." This is a clear example of this. Hopefully, it will always remain a painful lesson to our village and citizens, that in the future when we so hurriedly proclaim guilt, that we view the individual not on the side of the tracks he is from, or the color of his skin, but rather on the actual evidence presented.

THE 1900's

With the coming of the twentieth century Hicksville housed 2520 people in the village, and 3314 in the township. The first ten years of this century did however see a decline in population, and in local businesses. With the advent of industrialization in Fort Wayne, many moved there, and to other more populated areas.



This portrait of Amelia Bingham was painted by Mrs. John (MaDonna) Kenner from an opera poster owned by Mrs. Guy (Opal) Volkert.

1910 began a period of national limelight for the community in the person of Mrs. Amelia Swilley Bingham. She was the daughter of John Swilley, owner of the renowned Swilley House, located where the bank now is. Young Amelia was waiting tables at the restaurant in the boarding house when Lloyd M. Bingham, leading man in a road show, spotted her. It was love at first sight.

They then married and through his coaching she became a top rated actress. She toured the country appearing in all kinds of theatrical productions. In 1893 she made her Broadway deput. "In 1900 she organized her own show company, and was one of the very first American women to succeed as a theatrical manager and producer as well as actress."

When she came to Hicksville she was always quite the attraction. Her performances would take place in a packed Huber Opera House.

George A. Patterson told the story of seeing her in his boyhood. "One summer morning his father had sent him down to the "John L. Bevingtons Bank," which is now the Hicksville TV and Appliance site. Mrs. Bingham was ahead of him in the tellers windows, to cash a check for $1000. She asked for the money back in ten dollar bills, and lifted her long skirt and petticoats, and placed the bills in the top of her long stocking. Young George was so enhanced he nearly had to be carried back to his Dad's store after the incident. He would never forget the beautiful actress, or her lovely legs.

Mrs. Binghams career took a nose dive after her husbands death in 1915. She then faded into obscurity. But she brought fame and recognition to herself and the small village she was always so proud to say she came from, Hicksville, Ohio!

1901 was a period of progress but some of it never materialized. There was effort, and council action to build a trolley system in the village.

The Indiana - Ohio Traction Company, and the Fort Wayne Northeastern Company also wanted to put in an electric train from Fort Wayne to Hicksville. It almost materialized, as there are still areas west of town where one can view the bridges they were making to go over the creeks.

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The B & O railroad had put in another set of tracks in the 1890's, and with it a tremendous increase in travel. In passenger trains alone, six stops were made daily in our busy village:

From Cicero Road to the Scipio Road in Indiana is uphill. It required a pusher car to push the trains up this grade. To alleviate the use of the pusher cars the village approved the B & O railroads request to build an elevation. Through the pen of the first Democrat Mayor, since incorporation, E. J. Reisch, ordinance 148 was signed which gave legal approval of the project.

The legal contract stipulates the building of subways, or viaducts as we usually refer to them. The height and widths of these subways was specified. The railroad was also to pay for gravel for the roadway through the subway and the sidewalks passing through them. The people who owned land, and the proprietors of sundries on Cornelia Street crossing were ordered to vacate their properties if they were in the right of way. Cornelia Street was then divided. Any damage concured by the workmen while raising the grade was to be paid by the B & O.

The B. & O was also given the responsibility of maintaining the crossings, pave the unpaved portions of the old track, and to work with the Water Department on the drainage problem.

The project was quite the site as the elevation was largely done by simple brute force. A group of immigrants from Sicily provided much of the man power. They camped near the Jim Volkert farm on Spencerville Road and the State line crossing when building the western end of the track, much of the fill dirt needed for the elevation was gotten near here.

The building of the railroad seemed to cause some trouble for the city fathers. The first was the complaints of some of the residents whose view was now blocked by a railroad elevation.

The second problem in building the railroad involves a tragedy. Francis Horton was the President of the First National Bank of Hicksville, situated where the Marathon station operates on the corner of High and Main. On Sunday, October 13, 1901, at about 6:00 p.m. he was walking to the Church of Christ to attend their evening services. As he approached the Smith Street subway his view was blocked of a pusher train going backwards down the ground level track. The train, unable to stop in time, hit the victim and carried his body 105 feet." His Bible, watch, hat, and spectacles, were picked up within ten to forty five feet of the impact. It was a rather sad loss to the community, as he was quite civic minded.

The third problem encountered was extreme rowdiness in the Village. This project brought a variety of different people to the village. When their day was through many of them enjoyed an evening of drinking in one of Hicksville's variety of bars. There was nothing wrong with this, except it alarmed some of the anti drinking factions in the town. They verbally denounced the doings of these people, and fought to close the "sin ridden" establishments of liquor. They were usually drowned out by the more numbered factions who enjoyed the liquid.

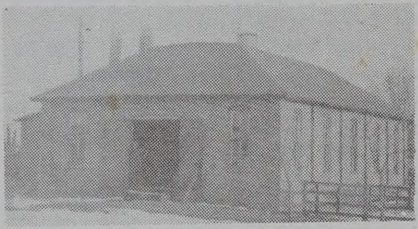
There is a more dominating reason for the anti drinking, it often led to brawls. The citizen of this day seemed to view this as a dominating masculinity sign. To discover who was the toughest man in town, often required the spint of alcohol to loosen the man up for his big fight.

Hicksville goes dry

The nightly violence continued, and on November 4, 1901, ordinance 148 was enacted. In short the ordinance provided the law that made it illegal to sell alcohol above 3.2% content. The anti drinking factions proudly proclaimed Hicksville, "as the first town to go dry in Northwest Ohio." The law stood until November of 1974, when the village voted that parts of the community would be exempt from this aged ordinance.

The year 1901 also brought the first electrically illuminated lights to Hicksville. On September of this year the Council gave its approval to such a move. All public streets, alleys, public ways and railroad grounds were to be kept lit with twenty one electric lights. They were to be of 1500 candle power and were to burn from dusk until 11:35 p.m. On nights of a full moon they were to be turned off.

The village paid a fee of $50.00 for each light, with a $65.00 yearly upkeep fee for each one. The village contracted C. M. Lott and the Hicksville Electric Company to perform this. They were responsible for the erection of the poles, the stringing of wires and cables, and the maintenance of an electrical power plant.



In 1901 electricity came to Hicksville. The Hicksville Electric Company was responsible for managing the electric plant which stood on North Maple Street behind the Carma Rowe residence.

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Antique designs drift around the band,
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John's Jewelry

Hicksville, Ohio

Along with the few electric lights that were in the village, there were also arc lights. Ralph Battershell recalls as a boy, living on South Main Street in the 1920's, when he and his young pals would run to watch a gentleman illuminate the arc lights of that street. This man would travel all over town. Much like lowering the American flag, he would hoist the lighting fixture down, and magically light it. He then would hoist it up to the top of the pole, and proceed with his horse and buggy to the next arc light, until all of the arc lights in town were burning.

"The first newspaper in Hicksville known as "The Independent" was started in 1872. Three years later the name was changed to "The News" which was taken over by the "The Tribune" in 1934. It was then given the consolidated name of "News Tribune." The former owner was M. J. Schell, who had been in the printing business in Hicksville for 50 years. Ravonne Noffsinger and Ed Potter ran the paper until recently, when the civic minded Merle Pepple assumed ownership."

The newspaper in December of 1902, lists salaries of our village officials. The Mayor was paid $100.00 a year, the Clerk $100.00, the Treasurer $100.00, the Marshal $50.00 and the Street Commissioner $40.00.

A few of the business establishments, in December of 1902, were listed in a souvenir copy of a Camata, given by the Hicksville Public Schools, at the Huber Opera House. The Ainsworth-Sheperd Company specialized in tailer made suits for the men, and jackets and coats for the ladies. Frank Bricker had a meat market, and played up the fact that he sold oysters in all seasons. Ferris and Culler invited the public to view their fine line of Japanese China pieces. The Hart Brothers Jewelry store was open evenings. The A. James Jewelry motto seems to have been, "quality is always the first consideration over price." The Pettit Grocery was specializing in Christmas candies in December of 1902. Dilworths Racket Store said, "that it always has the best and most goods for your money." But Dalrymple's makes a similiar comment about the goods of their store. Worts proclaim, "they are the headquarters for Santa Clause." The Corner Store of Hart Hood and Widney was having a cut-price sale on cloaks. At the W. O. Hughes store, sleigh bells, blankets, robes, hardware, stoves and furniture were being sold for the coming winter of 1903. J. E. Coburn was featuring special prices on their candy to Sunday schools and teachers. Free Christmas presents, (a picture) were to be given away at the Holden

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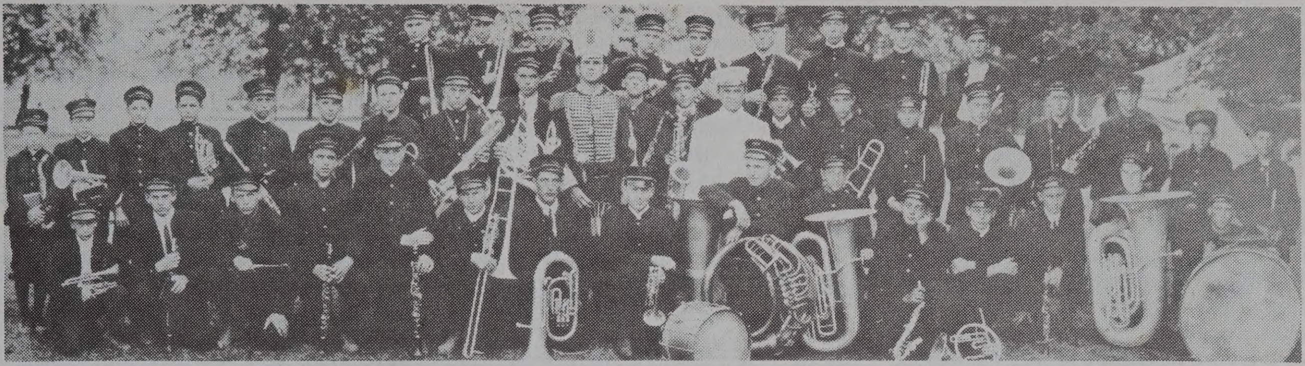

Many local names will be remembered in this group photo of the Hart's Boys Band taken in the early 1900's. The group, which toured in many famous cities, was directed by O. V. Hart. Following are the members including, left to right, front row, Maurice Sholl, Ray Smith, G. A. James, Claron McCormick, Wallace Miller, , Toad Daniels, Clair Garver, Eck Greer, Carl Sholl, Hud Ullery, Emil Teegardin, Lynn Bricker, Sal Hadsell, Van Hadsell. Row two, Lee Jackson, Harold Hoffmeister, Ralph Miller, Clair Cahill, Paul Smith, Claron Hilbert, Verne Getrost, Virgil Blythe, Floyd Blythe, Bill Pease, Bill Harter, Hale Byers, O. V. Hart, director; Harold Carr, Wade Jackson, Paul Schaffer, , Darrell Bricker, Gale Poole, John O. Niel, Sid Smith. Row Three, Floyd Harkey, , Maurice Longsworth, Lloyd Hartzler, Laurence Hart, , , Pete Seibert, Ellwood Saunders.

Photo submitted by Mrs. Marie Keller

Clothing store. The Boon and Bevington Company proclaimed, "that they have any item in staple merchandise for man, woman or child." The Hoffman Brothers featured, "the best in the drug line," according to their ad. Ackerman and Lewis, wanted the public to come and view their shoe line. The Hicksville National Bank and the First National Bank" solicits your business." These are just a few of the stores in existence in the town, but gives one a vague idea of the names of some of the early businesses.

With the end of the first ten years of the villages existence in the 20th century a new toy is developed, the automobile. Very few people possessed one in this early day. According to a Hicksville History compiled by Roger L. Chaney's eighth grade Circus class of 1946; Jim Sensobaul and Ed Petit owned the first automobiles. The 1910's saw the gradual removal of the hitching posts around town to make way for the horseless carriages.

The village set a speed limit for automobiles and motorcycles in 1910. You were not to exceed ten miles per hour in the corporation limits subject to a $25.90 fine. Also to operate your vehicle in the village you were to have a muffler or you would be fined $1.00 to $5.00.

The most amusing of ordinances best sums up the years 1900-1910. The local citizens seemed to have greatly enjoyed chewing tobacco. The only legal problem here was, that if you spit on a sidewalk, in any public holding, or in a public building, you could be fined up to $5.00.

THE 1910's

In 1912 a new building was built on the corner of High and Maple. It was to be of the most modern design in Defiance County. The building was named, the American Building.

This year also saw the label of the Clabber Girl baking soda with a picture of two local boys on it. Robert and Ralph Battershells picture was on the counter at the Hart Hood and Widney general store. A salesman came in and like the picture and sent it to his company. The two boys starred on the label for years.

There were two famous bands in the town, one whose beginning actually was in the decade before 1910. One is the Harts Boys band, formed in the early part of 1900. Secondly, a girls band with the same first name was begun in 1915. The Boys band first performance was on April 1, 1909.

The following article written at the time the band was touring the United States gave Mr. Hart and his boys the publicity they rightly deserved.

"Hart's Boy Band is in a class by itself. It is a professional organization despite knee high kids ages 12 to 21. The boys feast in the classies, and frolie with the ditties. No band exclude Hart's boys in tone, harmony or volume. The boys have been under the training of Mr. O. V. Hart for eight years, and have won a high place in the hearts of the lovers of high class music. Hart's boys won first prize at the Ohio State Fair in 1912 and was present at the inauguration of Gov. James M. Cox. Cox was later the unsuccessful Democrat candidate for President against Warren Harding. They have filled engagements in

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Dayton, Cleveland, Washington D. C., Philadelphia, Pittsburg League Island Navy yard, Harrisburg and many other places. They have appeared before the most critical audience and won the hearts of their listeners. Conductor Hart has not only developed the musical talent of the boys, but he has disciplined them and made them respectable even to the most fastidious. The boys are gentlemen. Individually they are a credit to the organization. They never appear in concert or parade unless properly attired. Their appearance is strikingly beautiful, it is in keeping with the high grade of program rendered."

Amelia Bingham, noted actress called the Harts Boy Band, "My Boys". At one time they were in Philadelphia and she looked them up and asked them to be her guests, but because of their schedule they could not, but before leaving Philadelphia, they marched to her theater and serenaded her.

She left the stage and prevailed upon Mr. Hart and the boys to finish the evening with her. She dismissed her own orchestra pit. One of the many good things she said about the group was, "Hart's Band is unexcelled in the musical world. The boys under the efficient leader Mr. O. V. Hart, have demonstrated what boys can do. I have heard all the professional bands but I pin my faith to Hart's Boys. They have a future. No one can make a mistake in booking them."

Mr. Hart deserves special recognition for service to his country. Thirty of his musicians were in the Army and Navy in World War I. One of the highest tributes paid Mr. Hart and boys was a lengthy article which appeared in the Saturday Evening Post. This was truly a great honor, and Garrett James and Claron Hilbert are two members who are still residents of Hicksville, and they will always cherish the memories of their band.

Also home of girls band

Hicksville is the home of possibly the first girls traveling band in the nation. Needless to say it was quite famous in its day. This band played across the country, and was viewed by many famous people, most notably President Woodrow Wilson.

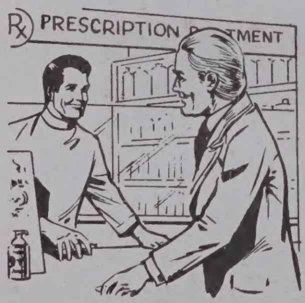
This group was formed by Mr. O. V. Hart in 1915. It then consisted of five girls and Mr. Hart, who met only for the enjoyment of playing their instruments. Their group grew and they began performing in street concerts in town, and in the neighboring ones. This led to the task of being ballyhoo's for the many fairs of the area. They would march up and down the streets and then to the fairgrounds, followed by throngs of people.

They became widely known, and in the spring of 1921, they hit the road. They opened in Wichita, Kansas, and traveled as far west as the Corn Palace, in Mitchell, S. D. Along the route to these big stops, they would play for smaller fairs, and to fraternal organizations.

The year 1924 seems to be the date of the next big road show. The group traveled to the famous Boardwalk, in Atlantic City, where they played for ten weeks. Here two famous individuals joined the ranks of the many ardent admirers of the band. Paul Whiteman, a big band leader of the era, and Michael Pingertor, a renown banjo player, expressed their delight in the group.

The Murphy Circus heard of their ability and persuaded the group to play for the organization in 1926. They performed under a giant circus tent, and had their own designated band stand. They played what were called, free acts. This is the backdrop music

HICKSVILLE
Rexall
PHARMACY
HICKSVILLE
Rexall
PHARMACY



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heard when the clowns play their tricks, when the high wire and trapeze acts perform, and whenever there is a break in the action between acts. "This wasn't always fun and games," as Lottie Forder recalls, "as rain would drip off of the tent, and on to her, and her french horn.

Perhaps the most memorable of the road appearances was in Canada, in 1927. Here the band for the time being assumed the name, "the Scottish Lassies," They would perform wearing the traditional dress of the Scots, appearing primarily before fraternal societies. In their travels of this area they would, in their free moments, perform to childrens homes and T. B. hospitals.

In the year 1928, membership in the band was on the decline. But this didn't seem to slow them down, as they organized a stage band, that they would perform in when they were not on their road shows. On the road they performed the vaudeville circuit. Once a year a special concert was held at the Huber Opera House, home of the present cinema features. They would pack the house for two solid evenings, performing from early dusk to midnight and later. The citizens would come from miles around to listen to this concert.

In the summer of 1928, they presented street shows in a huge wagon, every Wednesday evening. This was done to bring the people to Hicksville to shop and proved quite fruitful as the town would be packed.

Also in this time period, the stage band performed the music for the Huber Opera House and its theatrical productions. An actual pit stage for the bands was located in this very famous building.

The B & O railroad provided a special coach to every place the band would travel. It would have the groups name on the side and was quite an elaborate set-up.

The girls were paid a weekly salary of about $40.00 and traveling expenses. For the most part, it was summers of fun and excitement for these talented young ladies.

The hardships of the depression, and the death of Mr. O. V. Hart in 1931, brought a partial stop to the bands existence. The band ceased to travel, but continued to practice in their band room located above the present day Village Pizza Shop.

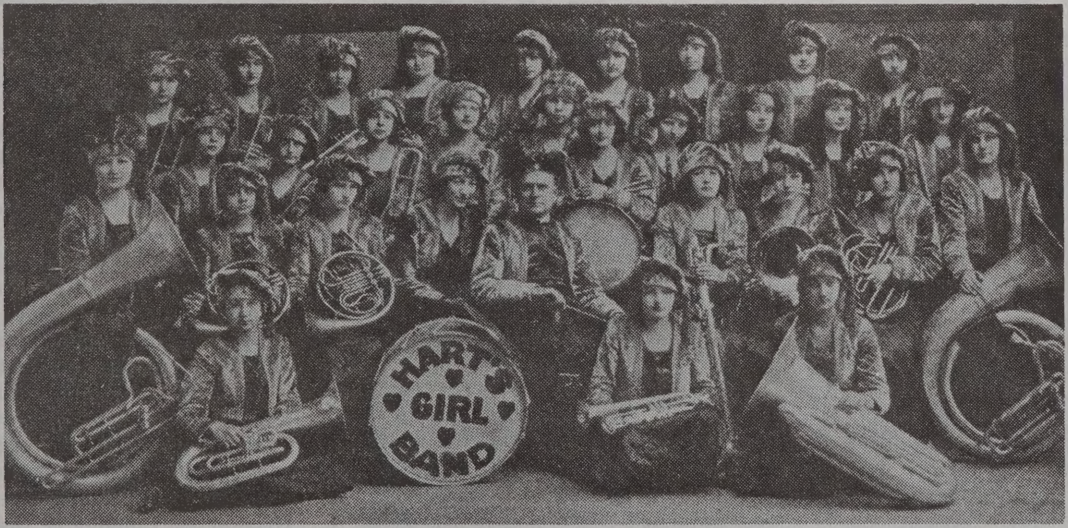
Mr. Hart's daughter, Mrs. Kathleen Daughtery, re-organized the bunch in 1933. They again played the fairs of the area and the street concerts of which they were so well known in the 1920's.

The band never did attain the stature of that age, however, and with the loss of their band room, and the perils of time, they were forced to dismember. The fame they brought the small town, and the enjoyable hours listened by many, shall never be forgotten!

1916 saw the U. S. declare war upon the European Central Powers. It was a time of bond sales, soldiers departing, and immense joy when they returned. Hicksville gave sixteen of her youth to keep France and England from falling to the Kaiser. One local lad, Edward Smart, proved quite valiant in the war effort and the Hicksville American Legion post is named after him and his sacrifice to his country.

The A. P. Edgerton home located where the library now is situated was moved in three sections in 1915. Two parts went to the south end and west side of Maple Street, the other one to the Kermit Agler residence on West High Street. With the home vacating the area, in 1917 an Army tank was brought to town. To show versatility of the new age of warfare, the tank went into a giant hole which was created when the A. P. Edgertons house was moved. It was the basement. The tank climbed the walls, and into the hole with no problem at all.

When the German and its other allies decided to sign the Armistice to unofficially end World War I a whistle was to be blown in Hicksville. Thomas Hood, who worked for Crook and Millers, was supposed to blow their



Members of the Hart's Girls Band are shown above. The picture was taken in the 1920's and was submitted by Mrs. Henry Miller, Jr. The members are front row, left to right, Mary (Hughes) Larkin, Zulu Mapes and Ethel Clark. Second row, Mildred (Felton) Hoff, Eva (Miller) Smith, Madge (Coon) Lower, Berenice Traxler, O. V. Hart - Director, Fern (Hook) Ferguson, Marie (Hatzel) Patterson, Marceal (VanArsdale) Gueth and Melissa Bond. Third row, Marie (Hoff) Bakle, Juanita (Stahl) Hyatt, Marybell Van Arsdale, Ercel (Lenz) Miller, LaVerne (Armstrong) Blosser, Lyndall (Stahl) McCalla, Ethel (Fry) Yasting, Grace (Lash) Doub, Bessie (Forder) Wickerham and Edith (Hart) Smith. Back row, Gladys (Steele) Waltenberger, Kathleen (Hart) Daughterty, Dorothy (Thompson) Valentine, Audrey (Peters) Cleland, Mary (Burgoyne) Culler, Geneveve (McCormick) Mastin. Fredia (Forder) Harshbarger, Marjorie Smith and Lottie Forder.

loud whistle at a certain time. He got sidetracked, and the whistle never was blown. Some of the local citizens equated this as being unpatriotic, and Mr. Hood was carried through town on a rail and dumped at the edge of the village.

The automobile popularity began to grow in this ten years. In Hicksville Mastin and Sons Motor Cars operated. A 1916 Ford Roadster sold for $345, and the five passenger model was $360. This, of course, did not include the freight charge.

The Hicksville area is noted for its abundance of gravel pits. They evolve in this time period, for the purpose of filling chuck holes and for fill dirt. To finance this a measure called, "the August Pole Tax," was enacted.

1916 saw the cement paving of Route 2. This was a real convenience to the citizen who was sick of forever getting stuck in the knee deep mud.

Of course, if one did not want to travel by the train, car, bicycle or foot, there was a bus line traveling the village. Coon Looman ran the first bus route through Hicksville. In 1916 the Bricker Bowen Bus line operated between Hicksville and Fort Wayne. One could leave our town at 7:00 a.m. and return at 1:00 p.m. on this line.

The first bus station was located where the Barr store now operates. The Grey Hound bus line traveled through here for a time, but lack of travellers from the village ended that. The Short Line Bus Company traveled here before World War II, but gas rationing ended its route. We are presently served daily by the Trailways Bus line.

The railroad continued to operate at an emmense profit in this time period, in its travel through our village. On September 15, 1911, a terrible accident occured in Hicksville. A team of horses driven by George Stuckman was crossing the railroad tracks at the first viaduct coming from Defiance. He and his family were going to the fair. They came under the viaduct and an eastbound freight train was switching. A flat car and caboose sailed toward the buggy. Mr. Stuckman swung the team sharply to the right at the moment the flat car struck the rig. Mrs. Stuckman was thrown out of the buggy and under the wheels of the railroad car. She died instantly leaving a four year old daughter, (Mrs. Henry Gecowitts) without a mother.

The train yard was reportedly a place of many such close calls in the early days. It seems the train crews would never take the time to place a flagman out to warn the approaching buggies, who could not see until going under the viaduct.

THE 1920's

The roaring twenties brought many new modern conveniences to the village. In 1922 Robert Battershell and Joe Dunbar sent to a company for the parts to build a crystal radio. While waiting for delivery of the parts, they went to the Miller Handle Factory, in the general location of the present day Tuttle & Wittig Feed Mill, and got wood to build stools and the stand to hold their radio when it was built.

The parts were then sent to the Battershell residence at 205 West High where the assembly of the first radio in town was begun. The project was not immediately successful, but one night the sound of a violin playing was picked up from radio station K.D.K.A. from Pittsburg. This was heard through a cumbersome set of earphones. The radio became quite the attraction as many would come to listen to the crackling unseen voices. Eventually the headphones were put in a large crock to amplify the sound. The author has in his possession some of the parts his grandfather used on this first radio, and they are a sight to behold.

Dunbar continued in the electronic business, and became well known with the A.T.&T. (American Telephone and Telegraph) business. He was involved in some very touchy work in World War II that resulted in his project and picture being on the cover of Life magazine.

The 1920's also seem to be a busy period for our local fireman. The Eureka Flour Mill Company located in the three story building we view on High Street in front of the elevator was the scene of a gigantic blaze. On April 23, 1923, a call was made to the local telephone operator, reporting this fire. She thought this was a joke, and by the time it was realized it wasn't, a tremendous blaze could be seen. The fire department arrived at the scene and extinguished it, the building was badly gutted but still stands today as a storage building.

The Crook factory burned during fair week in the 1920's. A cigar factory on Smith Street burned, and all the kids in town got a handful of stoogies when the blaze ended.

This period of time was one of expansion not only in our community, but in the world. There are many businesses, most of which are now defunct, that must be mentioned.

The Harkey Canning Company was located in what is now the area of Greenlawn Drive. A group that specialized in custom made tops for automobiles occupied the Headley Enterprises Building on South Maple. It was called the California Top Company. A Cigar Factory was situated where the Midwest Water Softener Shop is seen on Smith Street. The Stewarts later developed another Cigar Company located in the vicinity of Sarahbell's Dress Shop of today. The Hicksville Produce Company provided jobs on what is now a section of the Tuttle and Wittig Feed Mill.

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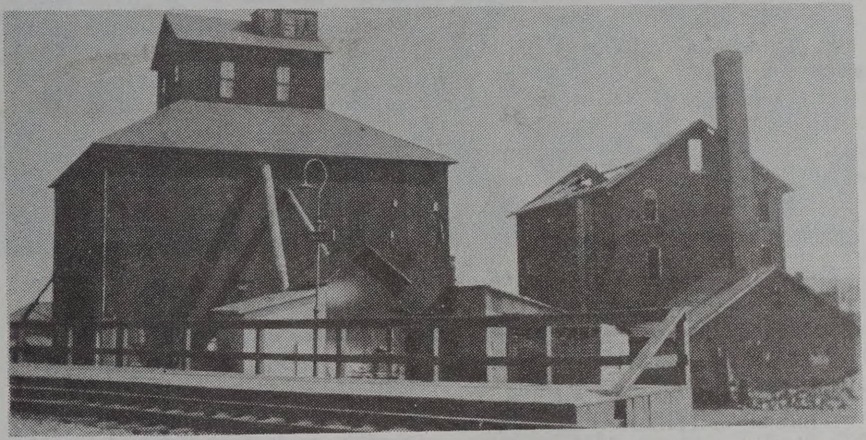
SPECIALIZING IN ELECTRIC HEAT
AND INSULATING HOMES

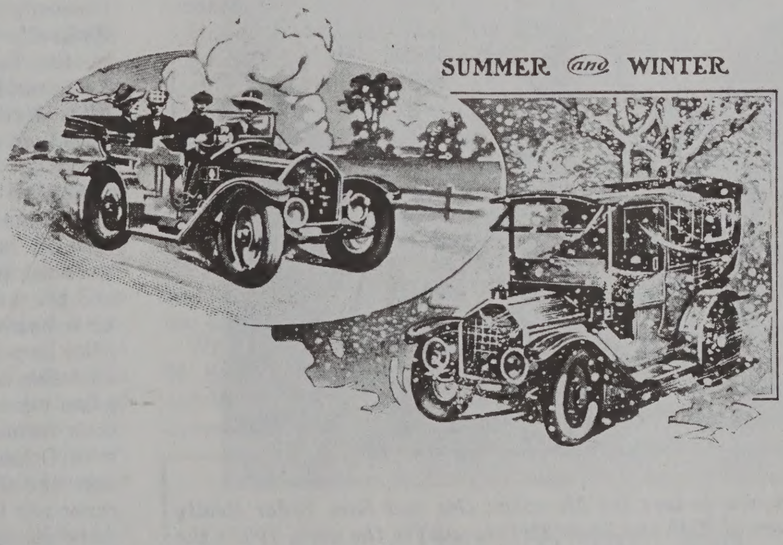
TRI-STATE ELECTRIC

The Eula Lee Garmet Company was situated where the Barr store is. The making of tables was done at a factory in the vicinity of the L. & L. Greenhouse.

In the service of our local customers was a variety of stores. W. O. Hughes ran a Hardware where McDonald Hardware is operating. Boon and Bevington ran a three story complex where the Open Door is and in an eastern direction toward the Wards store. It went out of business in the late twenties. Hart Hood and Widney ran a General Store from the Thriftway store to the Clarence Kuhl Clothing store of today. In the building that the Haver Furniture Store recently vacated the Jefferies and Cullers Hardware store operated. The Maxwell Brothers Clothing store was in the American Building where the new arts and craft store is to open soon. The Crescent Dry good store under 'the ownership of Robert Crookshank was seen where the Gambles store is. There was a music shop in town where the Village Realtors office is, it was run by Mr. Hadsel. Across from the present day St. Michaels Catholic Church was the plumbing shop of Albert Smith. A lumber yard under the ownership of Mr. McKan was seen where the Rowans recently sold their lumber yard. Groceries were sold at the John Topper store, situated where the Java Shop is. The Palace of Sweets' ownership was first of all had by F. C. Buck, then Gus Karageorge, and following through with the Greek tradition is the present owner, Jim Demas.


In 1923, the Eureka Flour Mill, right, which is now the site of the Hicksville Grain Company, was badly damaged by fire. After the fire, operations ceased in the building, which still stands, and is used as storage by the Grain Company. *Photo submitted by Mrs. Paul J. Glatz*

Where Mrs. Meeks is selling yard goods the Rank Market existed in the 1920's. The Ice Cube operates where the Mapes and Company sold items. Where the Clarence Kuhl Clothing store sets, the Dalrymple's Store. The Swisher-Battershell Variety Store caught on fire, and the partnership ceased. The Battershell's then purchased the site vacated with the Dalrymple's stores closing in 1929. The Hoffman Brothers provided the town with its prescription drugs. It sat in the area of the recently vacated Haver Furniture. In the area of our local dry cleaning shop a number of



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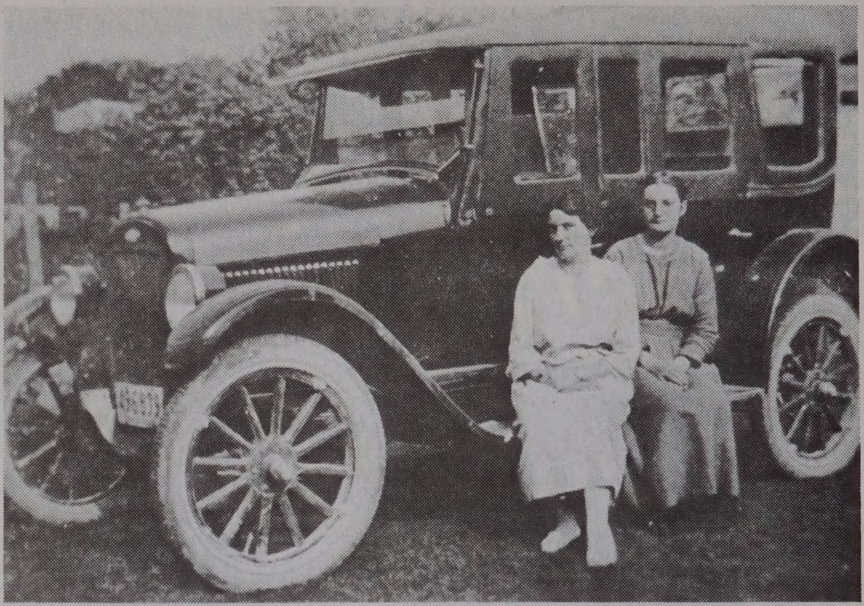
West High Street
Hicksville, Ohio



Convertibles were made into all-weather vehicles with the coming of the California Top Company of Hicksville. Submitted by Pete Yoder, this photo shows two unidentified young ladies with a touring car sporting one of the locally manufactured California tops.

butcher shops operated. One of these was the Klecher Meat Market. When the citizens shoes needed repair they had two choices. Dan Rozman fixed shoes where the Wayne Kreg Insurance Company operates. In the rooming house east of the Bank, Byaird Repp repaired shoes. The Cromley Variety store provided goods in what is now the Cleland Cardroom. Located in the Casual Shop was the Busy Bee Grocery under the ownership of Ira Applegate.

The automobile fever was burning high in the town with three different dealers. Addie Good sold Buicks where later the Johnson Service station and presently the Shell Station is located. The Good sales operated in a building on this site that was razed in the 1930's. Mastin and Sons Motor Cars sold Fords where the new Bob Miller Ford showroom is. To purchase a Studebaker one would visit W. B. Bricker.

To view the newest movies of the day one could go to the Huber Opera House, or the Crescent Theatre, which was located in an easterly direction beside the Huber. Some were of the silent flicks, but as time progressed a person was hired to read aloud the script as the movie was shown.

Most of our stores of today usually opened at 9:00 and closed at 6:00. When our early stores existed they would open as early as six a.m. On Wednesday and Saturday nights when the people would all travel to town the stores could be open as late as 1:00 a.m. The town would be packed on these nights.

Economics seems to be the issue that closes the twenties. The First National Bank was robbed in this time period. The culprits locked the tellers in the vault and sped down the country roads, to where they were apprehended near Harlan.

The building which now houses the Marathon Gas and Sam Yoder Realty Offices on the corners of High and Main Streets was, in the early 1900's the site of the First National Bank.

The year 1929 is the beginning of what is now termed, "The Great Depression." In less than a week after October 24, the economic tragedy had spread throughout the nation. In Hicksville our three banks, The Hicksville National, located where the Hicksville T. V. and Appliance store is; the Farmers State Bank in the American Building; and the Hicksville First National; situated where the Marathon operates; all closed momentarily.

Anyone who had bought on credit was wiped out. One of our local farmers had purchased a tractor in the week preceding October 24, 1929, and the week after, his tractor could have been bought for a third of the price he paid. The situation existed in all walks of life, as no ones economic gains were spared. Many people lost their farms, stores and horses in the area. Others were left jobless, and the few who did have work labored outrageously long hours, and usually for mere pennies.

The greatest obscenity to have been

SAVAGE REALTY AUCTION CO.
SINCE 1944
W. R. Savage, Realtor M. M. Savage, Associate Realtor
Hicksville, Ohio

spoken in the town at the time, seems to have been the word "Herbert Hoover". The nation as well as our village placed full blame upon the Chief Executive of the day. Most historians today, however, tend to place more of the blame for the financial crisis upon Hoovers predecessors, Coolidge and Harding.

What seems to have been the most deterent reason for Hoover's unending decline in popularity in the village stems from his nothing attitude about the situation: He told the nation, "the financial trouble would soon blow over." But the nation was starving and out of jobs, "and his do nothing attitude about the crisis is something history has not been so kind of, in evaluating the man as President."

THE 1930's

A time of recovery

By 1932 the nation was in its darkest hours financially. The Hoover policy of not granting federal aid, along with his opponents promise (Franklin Roosevelt) in the thirty-second election of repealing prohibition, brought us a new man to the White House. The nation, and Hicksville, was searching for a new voice.

Through the different government programs, primarily the work of the National Recovery Association, mainly the New Deal Program, the community and the nation bounced back from its perils of the depression. In the business establishments of Hicksville, the N.R.A. symbol, would be shown in each window. This was to point out that your business was doing all it could in price control, to alleviate the situation.

The years 1934-37, is one the rural residents of our township shall remember. During these years the Ohio Power and Rural Electrification Association, began supplying power to the farmers of the area. All water could now be pumped by electric, instead of hand. Also the kerosene lamps could be stored, and the modern electric lights could be installed to replace them.

In 1935 a new gym was built for the school children. The year also saw the construction of a sewage disposal plant. With the growth of the community more H2O was being used, and the water department's pumps located at the village park could not supply needed pressure. A water tower was thus built. It stands as it did in the 1930's, and has always been a big attraction to the teen age crowd of the community. Climbing to the top however, could be quite fatal, and is against the law. It would be advisable for the future and hopefully much wise young adults, to end this tradition.

As the thirties progressed many of the businesses previously mentioned still existed and others came into their own.

The Wilderson block from the corner of South Main and west on High Street has housed various groups of business. As the depression closed the Hicksville National Bank on the corner became a storage room, and more recently a Marathon Station. Its second story housed a telephone and telegraph office, where the operators would relay the village telephone calls. Dr. Hitt and Dr. Tanneyhill also had offices in this building.

The next building, the present day Sam Yoder Realty, housed a mortuary and furniture store ran by George Wilderson. Before moving out to the Hicksville Rifle Range on Spencerville Street, the local gun enthusiastic used the store as an inside shooting range.

The building west of it housed a cobblers shop at the turn of the century. In the 1920's, the George Baker Barber Shop styled the men's hair. Most recently Opal's Beauty Salon operated in this building.

A. C. Johnson's second hand store was in business in the next building. Later the Wilderson's used it for storage of the items from their orchard.

The fifth building that has been razed, housed Mrs. Jessie Cromley's Beauty Saloon in the 1920's and 30's. Robert Brown later performed his legal tasks in the building in the 1950's.

The final building which is Bob Poths Auto Repair was for many years the Carey's Garage. In the 1930's Carson Culler sold Chevrolets in the building, while the Carey's operated the filling station and service.

When we now patronize the Union 76 Station was also a combination service station and car sales. The Hi Speed Gas station was opened on December of 1935 under the ownership of Myron Scott who sold out to Dutch Goodwin in 1942, the present owner of the Union 76 Station. Charles Worden relates that when he worked here in the 1930's and 40's that gas was as low as fifteen cents a gallon. The working hours would be 6:30 a.m. to 10:30 p.m. except on the town nights of Wednesday and Saturday, when they were often there until 2:00 a.m.

In this building was situated the Shuerk Auto sales which sold Plymouths and Dodges. Bob West and Fred Larsen were the mechanics for the outfit.

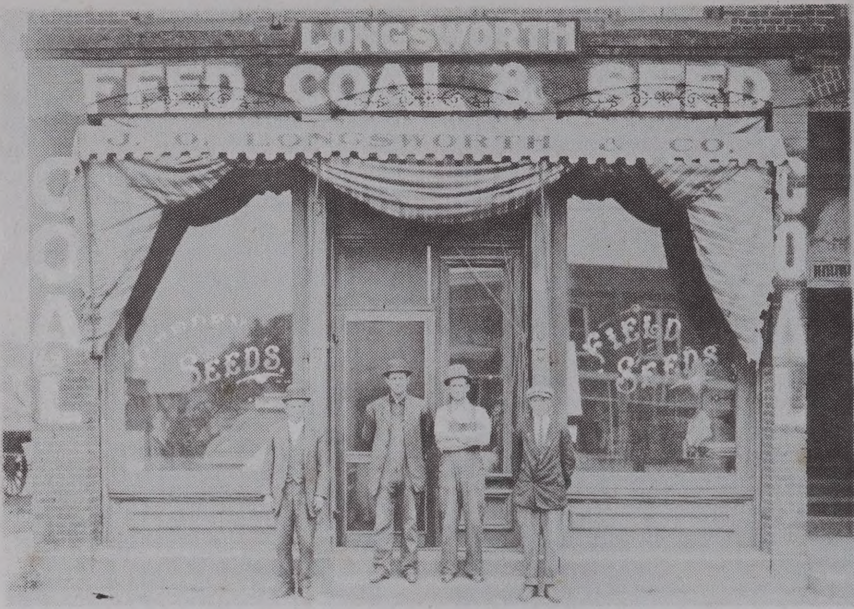
The building to the east of this was the Johnson Construction Company. One of their many jobs was the cement construction of the Brunersburg Pike, Route 18 to Defiance.

In the elevator yard and in the area of the long ground level white building on the west edge of the elevator property was situated what was commonly called the Four Store. C. T. Nash had a coal yard here. A person in the 1930's would usually find a horse drawn wagon, or a truck, proceed to the "Four Store," and have his wagon

GAS
HI SPEED

Gas was sold for 15 cents a gallon in the '30's and '40's at local stations, which included the Hi Speed station. Photo submitted by Charles Worden

The Village Inn
The Home of the Ace Burger
Hicksville, Ohio
Mr. & Mrs. Virgil Terrill



In the early 1900's J. O. Longsworth, second from left, and his unidentified workers, operated the J. O. Longsworth Feed Coal and Seed Company on the corners of North Maple and High Street where Goodwins Union 76 is now located. The stairway, far right, led to the Odd Fellows Hall, housed in the second story. Longsworth later formed a partnership operating the Four Store, located in the one story building now used as storage area by the Hicksville Grain Company. *Photo submitted by Robert S. Longsworth*

loaded with the resource. Deliveries were also made by the owners.

Shortly after the coal business ended for the Nash's, they kept lumber here in large quantities.

Where the Rowan Coal Company is seen with its tall coal bins, was the Arley Smith Coal Company.

Also in the area of our present Rowan Coal Company, was one operated by Bill Herschel. He called his business the Hicksville Coal Company.

In the area of metal and automation, Lee Limpert operated a machine shop where the Baltimore House once thrived. It stood in the red building on the immediate right hand side of the street, traveling east and through the High Street viaduct.

1938 saw the beginnings of the first "Gambles" store in Hicksville, a bit unusual as it was one of the first chain stores in the village.

The clothing business of the 1930's was a booming business, "The Maxwell Brothers" sold sports jackets from $1.98 to $9.95, and other clothing needs in the large business area of the first floor of the American Building. "The Hub Men's and Boys' Wear" could make a gentlemen look sharp with a pair of dress shoes from $1.98 to 14.98, and a pair of slacks from $2.00 to $5.00.

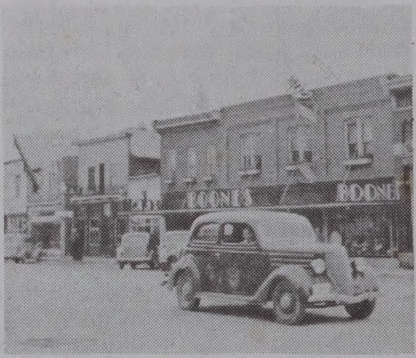
POT BELLIED STOVE

To give one a general idea of the price of food we shall look at the advertisement in the "Hicksville News Tribune," of June 15, 1939. "The May Brothers Grocery," lists the Pennant label coffee at three pounds for 39 cents, E. J. Salad Mustard for 5 cents, oleo 6 cents a pound, T-Bone steak sold for 25 cents a pound, pork steak 16 cents a pound, shoulder bacon 8⅓ cents a pound. At "The Modern Meat" veal steak went for 16½ cent a pound and bulk sausage for 10 cents a pound. "The Rank Market," was selling three loaves of bread for a quarter, a six pack of Coca Cola or Seven-Up was 25 cents, plus of course a deposit! At the "Kroger Store" bananas were 5 pounds for 25 cents, and ten pounds of "new" potatoes were to be bought for a quarter. "The Aten Market," sold a seven pound eight ounce jar of dill pickles for 33 cents. "Fetzer's Bakery" Saturday special consisted of raisin bread for 6 cents per loaf, or orange drop cookies at 12 cents a dozen.

At the Maple Street entrance to the Fairgrounds was staged a livestock auction every Wednesday at 1:00 p.m. The farmers local market was as follows: Wheat, No. 2 - 68 cents, Oats 34 cents, Corn 15% - 69 cents, Soy Beans 83 cents, wool 26½ cents and eggs A graded were 12 cents to 13 cents a dozen.

At the Cities Sales Garage on South Maple Street, a 1939 brand new Ford was being sold for $584. In their used models a 1937 Ford with a radio and heater included, was listed at $399. 1929 Model A Ford Tudor had a price of $49. and a 1929 DeSoto sedan listed with good rubber was to be sold for $45.

The last year of this decade must be



Evidence of the tragic 1939 cyclone can be seen on East High Street with buildings heavily damaged near the Boone's Department Store (presently Montgomery Wards).

Photo submitted by
Mrs. Margie (Boone) Elder

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classified the most sensational. A group of citizens under Carma Rowe got a library started in the school building of that year. It was the beginning of the eventual modern structure on High Street.

Perhaps what is most dramatic of the year 1939, is a cyclone that passed through the village on June 10th. It produced quite a tragedy in the loss of Mrs. Harry (Irma) Metz.

The town, on that evening, just appeared as if a heavy thunder storm was going to develop. Then all of a sudden at about 8:00 p.m. a wind struck with such force that visability was impossible.

The storm traveled in a southwesterly direction. With electric clocks at Bryan and Hicksville calculated as to their length stoppage, the storm can be recorded, as traveling at a speed of one hundred and twenty-five miles per hour.

The storm lasted for a period of about fifteen minutes, leaving the streets full of fallen trees and limbs. Men with axes spent the night removing them. Many of the trees had crushed houses and cars.

The great gust of wind had also removed many roofs. One of these being the Huber Theatre, where four hundred people were viewing a movie. One of the individuals who was watching the show remembers, "a terribly loud swoosh and away the roof went."

The Amaden Hospital which was located on East Smith Street and unoccupied, had part of its structure demolished.

The unoccupied building west of the Newstand, at that time the Ohio Power Office building, was left as a total wreck. It was in front of this building, that a tree fell on Harry Metz's car and his wife was killed.

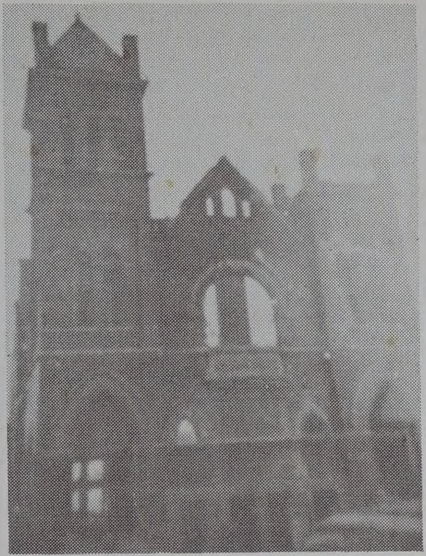
The town was very lucky that only one tragedy resulted, for this is the worst storm that has ever struck the town. Although the 1970's have had a few that were very close to this turbulent side of Mother Nature.

THE 1940's

The age of World War II

In 1940 the local school system became an Exempted Village School district, which gave it more independence from the county and state.

February seems to be a busy month for our local firefighters. On February 1, 1940 the Methodist Church that stood in the site of the present Grace United Methodist Church, burned to the ground.



In 1940 local firefighters battled a losing cause as the Grace Methodist Church was completely gutted by fire. It stood on the present Grace United Methodist Church site.

Photo submitted by Mrs. Lester Boylan

The next night the Miller Manufacturing Company was the scene of a blaze. The question of arson was always raised, but never answered. 1941 saw the Harkey Canning Co. burn to the ground.

1940 is the year the first Mayor in our village resigned his office. Mervin Bevington moved to Cleveland and Charles Poole was appointed the position of Mayor.

On December 7, 1941, the peaceful turmoil the United States had hoped to enhance while Europe was at war, was shattered. "The Japanese bombed Pearl Harbor on this day and President Roosevelt shortly after called for a declaration of war.

With the keenest of all the visions, "hindsight," we are well aware of the final outcome of this war. But on the bleak night when F.D.R. gave his speech to the nation on his declaring of war, the situation looked bleak. Many parents of Hicksville gazed sadly at their sons. They knew in their hearts that the boy they had watched grow to a young man, could shortly be carrying a rifle in the conflict against the authoritarian governments of Hitler and Tojo.

The spirit of patriotism was much higher for this war than the two that would involve the United States in the near future. I believe the people of Hicksville and the world sensed that Hitler could very well take over Europe, and with its loss, possibly our country. There seemed to be so much at stake in this conflict and the Hicksville youth entered the ranks in great numbers.

The local citizens had burdens other than the constant worry of how their son, relative or friend was doing in the war zone. To aid in the effort of victory, different rationings were imposed.

Food stamps were issued, for sugar, butter, meat and other items.

Then gas rationing began. Stamps and a sticker for your car's windshield were handed out and were required to be put on your windshield. The gas stamps were classified in three different categories. An "A" book of stamps would provide three gallons a week, and the "B" book, the one most people received, entitled the purchase to have five gallons of gas, weekly. If the individual was a Doctor, Mailman, or of any other important public figure, a "C" book would be issued.

Rationing begins to aid war effort

The government was strict in its way of issuing the stamps. The service station attendant was required by law to be the only person to remove the stickers from the books. There was a lot of deviations made for the soldier home on leave. Most of our residents, and rightly so, considered these people as hero's, and if disregarding whose rationing book the soldier may have been using would help him that was fine with service station attendants. It was, however, against the

Compliments
of
BEN'S BARBER SHOP

law, with possible loss of the owners station if the government would discover the deviation.

Tires were rationed and certain service stations would be permitted to sign a legal statement that a bad tire, brought in to be checked, was indeed beyond repair. All rationing coupons were issued in an office in the American Building, under M. M. Mastin's direction.

With the many inconveniences rationing and shortages created, many people finally put their cars on blocks and in storage until the war ended.

During the war years no cars, stoves, refrigerators, or any major appliance was manufactured. In fact, many items were not available such as bubble gum, ballons, candy and metal items of all sorts.

To honor the families with boys in the service each home had a flag in the window with a blue star for each boy and a bronze star for each boy killed.

The church bell would toll when a local boy was killed, which left all who heard a little sadder.

To be prepared for an air attack in the United States, special air raid drills were held. All area residents were required to turn off all lights and pull their shade. Air raid wardens for each block would walk their area to be sure all lights were off, and all traffic stopped. During the half hour or so air raid sirens would be wailing. It was a frightening experience for the youngsters, half expecting to see German bombers.

There were also drives to collect war materials much needed at the time such as rubber, iron, steel, tin foil and milkweed pods which were used in lifejackets.

All letters sent overseas to the boys were censored to delete any valuable information to the enemy.

Throughout the war years there were many War Bond Drives to raise money to pay for the war.

In nearby Defiance a large Prisoner of War camp was located near the present day Defiance Hospital. These P.O.W.'s were all Germans and they were employed during the war as farm help and various other jobs. In Hicksville, a fence was erected around Crook-Miller handle factory and these P.O.W.'s were brought in every day to work in the factory yard.

As the war was going on little personal talk was reportedly exchanged on the war. But, when the Allied forces were eventually successful a big celebration errupted in the village. Church bells rang, the fire whistle was blown, firetrucks would travel the town with their sirens bellowing. Hicksville was ecstatic, the heroes of the war were returning and things could now return to normal.

As in all wars, some families were not celebrating. These had sacrificed their sons so that we could reside in a country where freedom of speech ruled, rather than a tyrannical despot.

With the fighting over, Hicksville gradually returned to normalcy. The biggest problem of the post World War II period was receiving items ordered. With all limitations and restrictions removed on purchases everyone made up for lost time. Long waiting lists are on record for household appliances and automobiles of the period.

The year 1948 brought to Hicksville its first television set. In what is now the "Newstand," Wade Kuhn operated an appliance store. He set loud speakers in front of his place of business and people would crowd to watch the "Friday night fights" on the round and porthole shaped screen. Guy Gailey, S. A. (Pop) Curry, Bob Skinner and Hiram Stauffer were some of the other first owners of the marvelous new contraption.

One would always know who had purchased a television, because a very high tower and antenna would be seen

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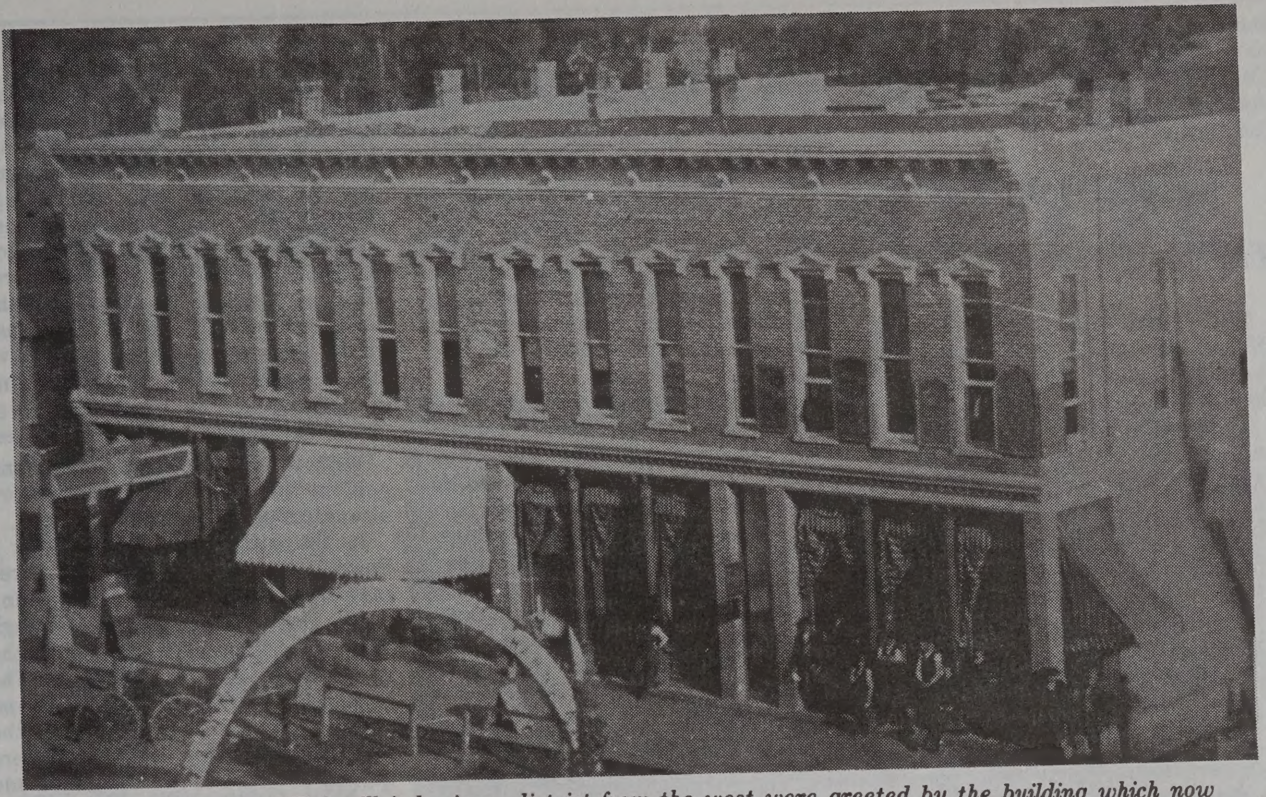
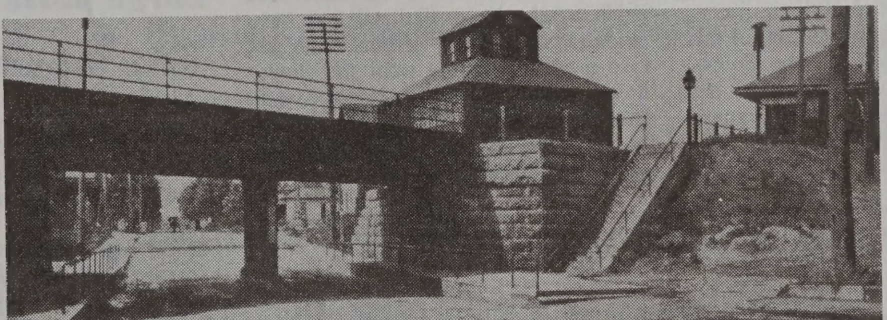


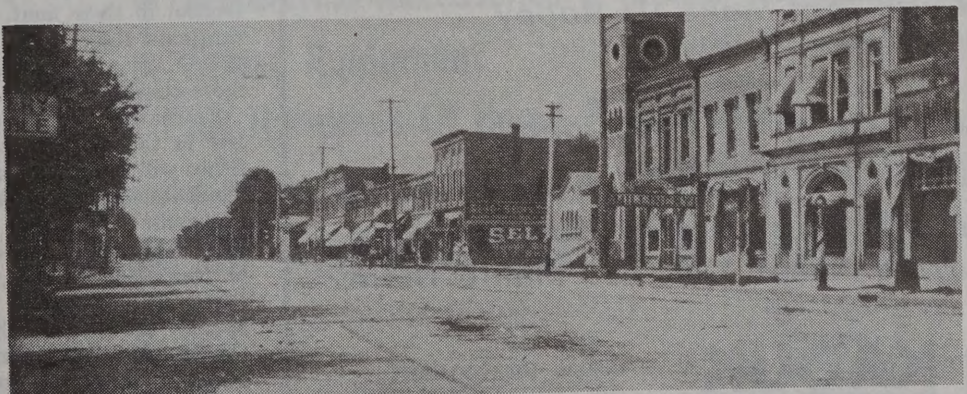
Visitors coming into Hicksville's business district from the west were greeted by the building which now houses the Palace of Sweets and Thriftway Discount on the corner of East High and South Main Streets. Plaques from the various businessmen and individuals were placed on the building front, some plaques are still present today. Town visitors were also welcomed on special occasions with the banner arch in the foreground. It serves much the same purpose as today's aerial banner.

Photo submitted by James Battershell Jr.



This picture shows a view of East High Street looking west. The old railway depot and Eureka Flour Mill can be seen as well as the brick streets of the turn-of-the-century era.

Photo submitted by Kermit Agler



Wide streets, a millinery store, a bank and the present Trinity United Methodist Church are among the landmarks visible from this view of the early Hicksville business district.

Photo submitted by Kermit Agler

sticking above the tree line. It would have to be very high to catch the Toledo signal, as the Fort Wayne stations were not broadcasting until the 1950's.

THE 1950's

The progressive era

The fifties were a period when Hicksville could finally put the thoughts of the depression behind and the temporary fear of war to rest.

The development of the village was on a virtual downhill trend from the depression until this decade. We owe much to the fortitude shown by two Mayors of this decade, Robert S. Longsworth and Grover C. Maxwell. It was through their organizational ability that the many industries, recreational sites, municipal expansion and so many other items we are all putting to good use in the seventies were initiated.

In 1951 the Hicksville youth was again asked to fight another war. The setting was again the Asian area but the enemy was the Communist inspired North Koreans. The Hicksville peoples opinion on the war coincided with that of the nation. The sentiment was expressed that President Truman should send the military, not only to stop the infiltration of the North Koreans into the free South, but that he should also go above the 38th parallel to bomb the Chinese controlled Yalu River area. For humanitarian reasons he never exercised the latter of that opinion.

During World War II everything productive was geared for the war effort. During the Korean War the nation was not as involved as the proceeding one. With the absence of the rationing and other hardships, Hicksville was not as aware of the conflict.

The villagers sensed that the small Korean country should be saved from communist control. Many young men were drafted and enlisted for the cause from Hicksville.

The village gave two of its young men for eternity. Max Humbarger and DeMar Keener. The Keener boy was shown in a touching pictoral of the Life Magazine, August 10, 1953 issue.

A Chinese made mortar exploded behind the twenty-two year old lad three days before the truce would be called. He died on the operating table just seven hours before the cease fire was called. Life Magazine designates this youth as the last life given in the Korean War.

A touching letter was sent from Sazino Piero, a resident of Milano, Italy, to Life Magazine. It was then sent to the youth's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Virgil Keener. He says, "I am sending you some Alpine star flowers picked on the Italian Alps as a symbol that the sacrifice of all American soldiers who have died will not have been in vain." The tribute was put into a picture frame with the flower and occasionally put at the grave at the Forest Hill Cemetary. The Keeners, to this day, have the flower of gratitude and the letter.

A local aspect to the Korean War was the Civilian Defense Unit of Hicksville. This volunteer group would meet for two hour shifts each from 1951-53. They were situated in a building near our present hospital and later to a building near our village disposal plant. Their job was to peer into the sky and identify with Dayton any plane with two motors or more. They were strung out throughout the nation and served as low level defense before radar was perfected to perceive these heights. Luckily a spotter plane never had to be sent from Dayton to check any uncleared foreign planes.

With the fear of communism rampant in this time period there were also a few pressing local incidents.

In the early part of the 1950's a South Carolina law man had three prisoners, which he was transporting on the B & O, which traveled through Hicksville. The train stopped at the local depot to pick up passengers. The prisoners requested a rest room break. It was granted but one of the men escaped. The other two were quickly escorted to the village jail and a man hunt was begun for the escapee. He was shortly apprehended near St. Joe, Indiana.

Large posse formed, town deputized

The posse returned and discovered the other two had escaped the clutches of our local jail. Another larger posse was formed with about half of the town deputized. As this was being formed and the news spread of the escape, someone reported sighting the two in the area of Milford Township. The armed men of justice ventured to the area, combing the woods, barns and roads. They eventually were fruitful in their hunt, and the three continued their slated journey on the B & O. They were watched just a bit more closely after this.

To continue the major work of the law in the town in the age of the fifties will require a look at two other incidents. In the location of the Hicksville Pharmacy, was the Ronnie's Department store. On the night of December 1, 1954, robbers ventured into the store and removed $15,000 worth of merchandise. It was the second heist in three years, the other having been carried out two years before this on the same date.

On June 11, 1958, the village had the biggest shoot out in its history. A dangerous bank robber was being held

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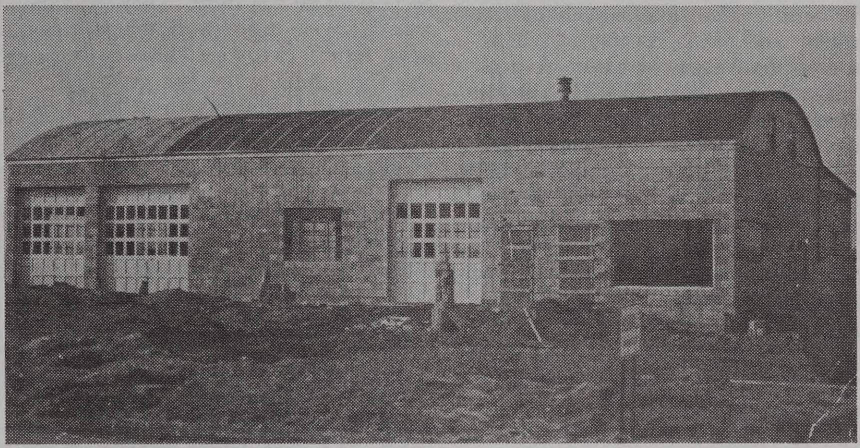

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Edgerton, O.
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NAPA THE RIGHT PLACE TO GO

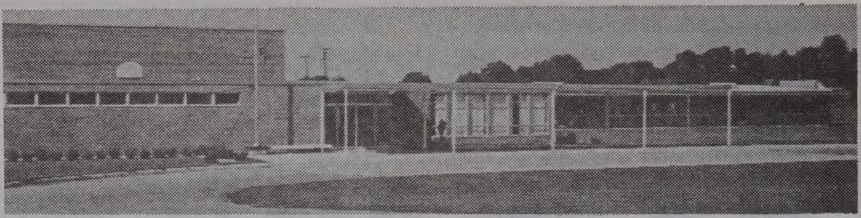
in the Fort Wayne jail. He escaped and stole a 1953 Pontiac convertible and took a hostage with him. The village of Hicksville was radioed to beware of this individual and was given the plate number of the car he had taken. Fordyce McCurdy, our long time Chief of Police, spotted the vehicle coming into Hicksville. The Ohio State Patrol had been alerted of the situation and was in town. McCurdy followed the vehicle up Spencerville Street and pulled the car over at the Route 49 and 2 crossing. The bank robber jumped out of the vehicle and opened fire at him, piercing the cruiser radiator. A total of nine shots were exchanged with the valiant Chief of Police in a very vulnerable position. The Chief's life was spared primarily, because of the quick back-up and shots fired at the criminal by a trooper situated behind a tree in the Walter Smith's yard on West High Street. In some of the houses in that area, bullet holes that were fired on that tense day can still be viewed. The robber was shortly apprehended and the only harm done was the frayed nerves of many.

Parking in the business district and placing a penny in the meter is something very few of us think anything about. But in the early 1950's, this was a highly contested matter. The advent of the automobile brought a need for organized parking. Until this decade people would park their vehicles in the middle of the street and vertically as we now park in the business district.

To alleviate the problem of people parking in one spot, all day parking meters were placed in the vertical slots. Parking in the center of the street was made illegal. The placing of these bothersome contraptions was highly contested at the time, but the issue has gradually ceased.

The 1950's was a time of recreational development. The Rotary, in the time of World War II, had built the roadside park on Route 2. This was about the only place to stage a picnic and relax in this time period. The other area used for recreation, primarily for athletics, was the fairgrounds.

During the period of World War II the government pushed the idea of recreation for the youth. They felt this would create a sense of wholesomeness. Grants were provided to begin this and a small place was provided in the area of the agricultural barns at the fairground for this. It was later moved to the place we now view near the water works.


In 1953 the need was felt for larger elementary facilities and the present building was constructed. Additions have been made to the structure, which still stands on West Arthur Street, in recent years to accommodate more students. *Photo submitted by Kermit Agler*

As the fifties came, the school board bought the property that is now the classrooms of our Elementary pupils. At the time one of the primary reasons for building was plans for a new football field a joint ownership between a school and park board, stipulating that they must be run jointly. Recreational facilities then began to grow. The park board purchased an acre of land to build a swimming pool in 1953. On May 30, 1955, the village opened the swimming pool at a cost of $45,000. The town so enjoyed this that the park program expanded. By 1956 an elementary school had been built on Arthur Street at a cost of $506,000, it is on the street of the vicinity of the park. In the mid 1960's thirteen acres of land had been bought in the area of the park and school, here three new tennis courts were built. The baseball program started in the 1950's and has continually grown. In 1975 the park provided five baseball fields. The Pee Wee league, Little League, Pony League, Colt and Acme leagues, and the two young mens teams, the Connie Mack and Stan Musial leagues share the diamonds. There are also a number of softball teams for both sexes. To show the extent of which the program has expanded since the 1950's a view of the fine grandstand built in 1973 and the newly sodded football field would be in order. The local Athletic Boosters are to be greatly commended for their efforts in the 1960's and 70's providing the recreational functions for our youth. We will leave the fifties for a moment to bring the park program up to date.

Hugh Husted designated land beside the park for development in 1973, expansion plans then were carried out and others are in the making. A fine picnic ground, a "kiddy" park, volleyball courts and track facilities, are all a part of our fine village park. It had its beginning in the 1950's and to the people who saw the future need for this type of activity, we owe immense gratitude.

The year 1953 is one of two major developments. The hospital on East Smith Street was very overcrowded. To better care for the sick, construction was started on the Community Memorial Hospital, on Columbia Street. The compound was dedicated on August 9, 1953.

A Hicksville library had previously existed in the Village High School, but a larger, more expanded one was needed. Mrs. Carma Rowe, in memory of her parents, the Johnson's, donated the funds to begin the project. The state had always alloted the site of the former Edgerton Estate as the place for an armory. It was apparent that none would ever be built, and an agreement was made between the village and the library board.

The village granted a ninety nine year lease on the ground, providing the back room of the "L" shaped building would provide a clerks office. The Johnson Memorial Library was dedicated December 30, 1953.

The great summer disease, polio, was finally conquered with the Salk Vaccine in the 1950's. One hundred and eighty one shots were given in the first and second grades of Hicksville on April 25, 1955. Very few of the present younger generation can ima-

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gine the joy and relief this vaccine produced. It was a very feared and crippling disease.

The year 1955 also was the year of the construction of a 100,000 bushel silo for the Hicksville Grain Company. Further construction was made nearly twenty years later in 1973. Our village now has one of the largest grainеries in the area. The Hicksville Elevator Association, which patronizes the grainery, is one of the largest organizations of farmers in our agriculturally strong community.

Corporation Forms

A few concerned citizens in 1956 felt our village could soon fade into obscurity without labor for the people. On December 26, 1956, the Chamber of Commerce formed a committee to bring new industries to our village. O. C. Perkins, Richard Young and Robert Longsworth were appointed to form a group known as the Hicksville Development Corporation.

The Development Corporation met with a company called Trident, located in Jackson, Michigan. This non-profit organization convinced the group to move to Hicksville, and they opened their doors on July 4, 1957. A second building was constructed in 1974.

The National Ideal Company, which is now our Commercial Shearing Company, had its beginnings in the east side of the Thriftway Store. The National Ideal, originally was just a chicken hatchery when located in this building. The Development Corporation was instrumental in its persuasion of getting the group to build their complex on the western city limits, in the 1950's. The firm left the village in the early seventies after a fire gutted the inside of the company and Commercial Shearing Inc., moved into the structure.

The Syncro Corporation moved to the village in 1958. It was located on Meuse Argonne for many years, until the S.T.M. Company recently purchased the building.

In 1960 Roland Doeden moved Dotco, from Sherwood, to the eastern edge of Hicksville. The firm has continued to grow, and is one of the most modern equipped machine shops in Ohio. It's growth is represented by additions in 1964, 1968 and in 1975.

In the 1950's the Kenny Muffler Shop was situated where the Pallet Factory is located on B & O street.

In the Headley Enterprise Building on South Maple is the Hicksville Machine Company. It did not come until the 1970's.

Finally to join the factories mentioned, and the Crook Miller and Midwest Tool factories that were in existence before 1950, came the largest of our modern day industries. City limits were expanded in a westerly direction on Route 2, and land purchased by the Development Corporation was sold to a Pittsburg based firm, Dietrich Industries. Their gigantic green buildings is a site that is hard to miss as one enters the town from Fort Wayne.

In Communications, the village switched to the simple dial telephones on December 20, 1955. To better improve our mail service a new post office was dedicated on Edgerton Street on October 14, 1962. The structure it replaced in the Huber Opera House block was too small.

Underneath the ground many major developments have occured. During the 1950's extended sewers were built to touch the city limits. In the early 1960's gigantic pipes were seen scattered all over. This was for a good purpose however as the installation of natural gas was installed throughout the village and ready for use on October 9, 1963. The telephone company is busy in many areas in the

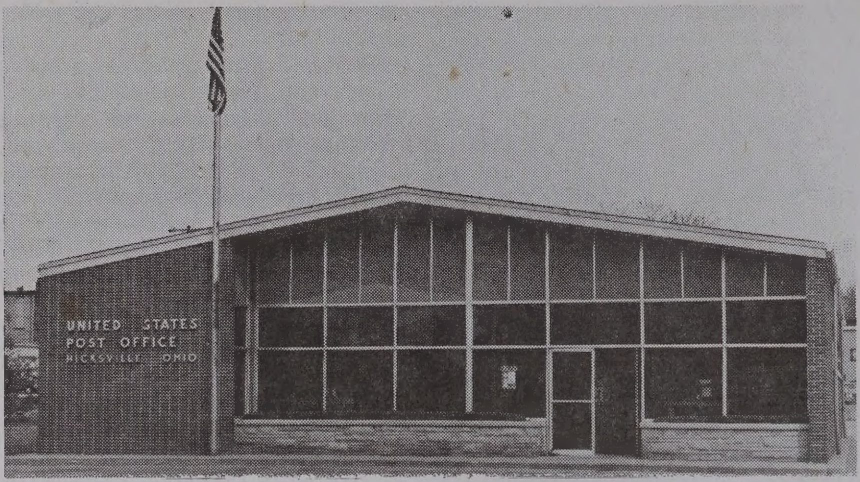
MARATHON
MARATHON
FLAMMABLE
FLAMMABLE

SLATTERY OIL CO.

Serving the Hicksville area since 1958 with commercial, home and farm delivery, Bard Furnace installation, fuel oil deliveries based on degree day operation and burner service for our customers.

Richard Slattery, Owner
Employees — Mary Slattery, Naomi Sleesman
Jake Tracy, Archer West

306 Defiance Avenue PHONE 542-6531 Hicksville, Ohio



The present post office, located on East Edgerton Street was dedicated in 1962. It replaced the old post office which was housed in the Huber Opera House Block.

township installing underground cables to assist communication.

THE 1960's

To present day Hicksville

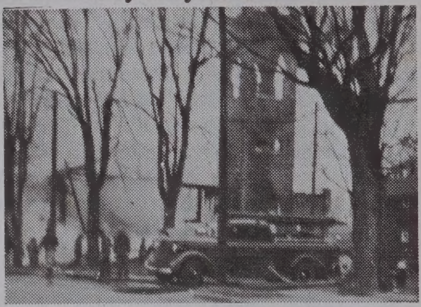
The period 1950 to 1975 is very closely tied. The many efforts made to develop the village in the fifties did not really transpire until the last fifteen years. These years are so closely related that in preparing this booklet the three decades often clash, in the order they are presented.

In Hicksville as well as the nation, the decade of the sixties was one of inner decisions. There was great turmoil and many life styles changed in the sixties. The seventies could probably be labeled a time of isolationism and the striving to correct errors of our government.

The year 1960 began the short John F. Kennedy era. Our town, often considered a Republican one, gave most of its votes to his opponent Richard M. Nixon. This election year being 1960, the same one as the census was taken, brought the village above the three thousand level with 3116 people residing here. As President Kennedy was our first Catholic Chief Executive, so did Hicksville have a first. Our first lady Mayor, Edith G. Harkey, was elected in 1968.

Church expansion seemed to grow in this decade, we are presently served by fourteen denominations.

On December 9, 1961, a tragedy struck the historic Presbyterian Church. It was located on the corner of Bryan and High Street. A wire in the organ short-circuited and the building was destroyed by fire.



In 1961, Hicksville's oldest church was destroyed by fire. Dr. Sung S. Kim's offices now stand on the site.
Photo submitted by
Mrs. Lester Boylan

In the sixties the town was still served by two local dairies. They made daily deliveries to each home who subscribed to their service. The Osmun family ran a dairy on North Maple Street. Located behind the Stoller Feed store of today was the Griffith Dairy. All of the young adults of today will never forget Max McDonald delivering milk on Chicago Avenue, allowing the kids to climb in his milk truck and beep his famous horn!

The early sixties, and a similar incident in 1973, brought the area Police in large numbers to the State Route 2 and 49 South intersection. The first, involved the escape of some inmates of the Michigan State Prison. They were reported to have been headed in a Southerly direction and possibly through Hicksville.

The local police got the report that they were hiding in the St. Michael's Catholic Church bell tower. Helicopters, airplanes and a vast assortment of law enforcement officials converged upon the area. The elementary children of that time, remember the incident because they were deprived of their afternoon recess. This was classified as a criminal offense in itself. The Hicksville Police Chief F. K. McCurdy, pushing aside thoughts of his almost fatal episode in 1957 in the same area, volunteered to be one of those to climb the bell tower. Much to their amazement they found not three hardened criminals, but three young boys who were sick of playing soldier. The A.W.O.L. youths were turned over to the Armed Services to be dealt with, and all went back to normal.

In the spring of 1973 a similar

SHELL

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SHELL SERVICE
200 West High Street Hicksville, Ohio
Bob West and Chet Metz, Owners
Since 1954
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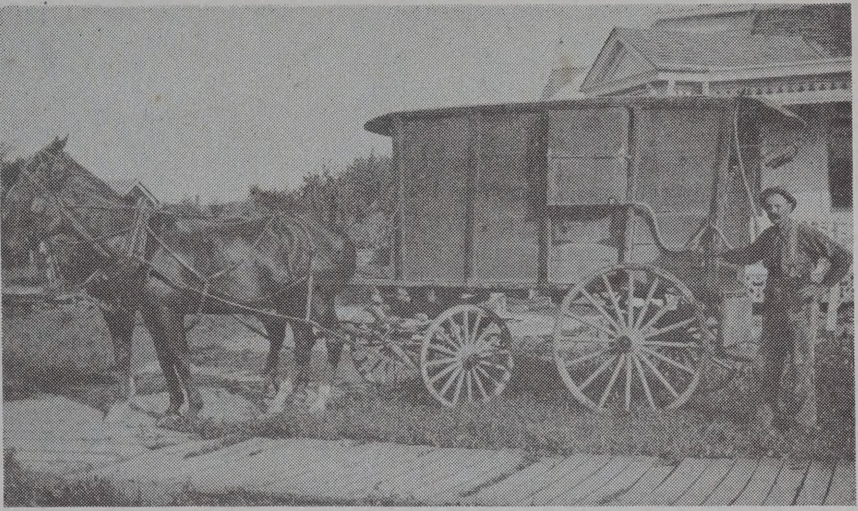
incident occured about five hundred feet from the corner of High Street and Antwerp Drive. The same corner of two previous showings of local valor.

A young lady had been raped at the Lutheran Hospital in Fort Wayne, Indiana. The Allen County Sheriffs Department radioed to the village of Hicksville and Edgerton that this violator of human dignity would possibly be coming through one of these two villages.

The Police were watching for a large white sedan with a certain license plate number. The driver and rapist was to have told his parole officer, "he would shoot any cop who ever got in his way." Our boys in blue took him for his word.

The Hicksville Police Department, quickly called all of it's off duty men, to be situated at every entrance to the village. Sergeant Robert Stotler was checking the license plate numbers of all vehicles as they passed Route 2 on the State Line. The force was just getting ready to give up its road blocks, when Sergeant Stotler spotted a small white car, with what he thought was the proper plate numbers. He radioed ahead to Patrolmen Michael Brown perched on the Casebeer Miller Road crossing on Route 2. Brown confirmed what Stotler had seen and a quick decision was made to apprehend the criminal at the famous Route 49 and 2 intersection. All officers were ordered to this area at once.

The author witnessed the apprehension and it must be said, "that if anyone would have told me it was a movie being filmed I definitly would have believed them. I was carrying groceries out of the Goldenetz Supermarket where I worked, when all of a sudden Police Cars and Policemen were coming out of no-where. I shall never forget the sound of twenty automatic shotguns being cocked in harmony, and the stern verbal threats of the officers in charge to catch the culprit. The orderly apprehension of the criminal by our law officials is something we should all be proud of. There is no doubt in my mind had the individual made a wrong move, he would be serving time in a metal box, instead of a state prison. Gregory Headley and I proceeded to the Police station to peer in the windows and to be good nosey adolescents. We never did see much of the rapist, but we did view his mother who was in the car with him at the moment of his capture. We counted one Antwerp Police car, a number of Deputies, as well as all of our own local force members vehicles parked in the area of the municipal building. After the incident they all were sitting drinking coffee, talking of what could have happened. Our area law officers left many of the villagers with an exciting evening."



A general store on wheels of early Hicksville was this Huckster Wagon with its unidentified driver. *Photo submitted by James Battershell Jr.*

One major change in the Hicksville businesses has been the decline of grocery stores throughout the 1960's. There is only one grocery store in operation in June of 1975, that was in business in the 1960's. At the present Ward's Store was the Cromwell Foodland; situated where a section of the Gambles store is was the IGA store; traveling west on the business block and where the Thriftway store is, was two food related businesses. The Fetzer and later Beck's Bakery and beside it was an A&P store. The A&P then moved to an area back of the Hicksville Bank and recently went defunct. On the other side of the street and in the American Building, business floor was the Kroger Store. As one journeyed west on High Street, past Arthur Street and to your left was Al DeVeau's Market, which then leased to Paul Walters. This store recently closed.

Finally none will forget the small but friendly Keller's Market on Meuse Argonne.

There are only two food markets left in town, one is the Goldenetz supermarket. It has done so well under the fine management of Oakley "Bergie" Bergman, that it is currently the site of construction of a new addition. The second recently opened, Jim's Handi Mart.

While on the subject of business, one must mention Charley's Tavern. The subject of beer can be a touchy one in the town, so this saloon will be mentioned not so much because of the local popularity, but on its notoriety. Our neighboring state, Indiana, has an age limit of twenty-one for the consumption and buying of any sort of alcoholic beverage. Ohio permits it's eighteen year old youths to purchase 3.2% beer. This brings our Indiana friends over in droves. Driving past the local tavern the Ohio plates are always the sparse minority.

If you are ever lost in Indiana, stop and ask a person thirty years or younger, the directions to Charley's. The individual, as a rule, will immediately give you the directions. During the course of time, he may have forgotten that Hicksville existed, but never the small tavern where all the DeKalb and Allen County, In-

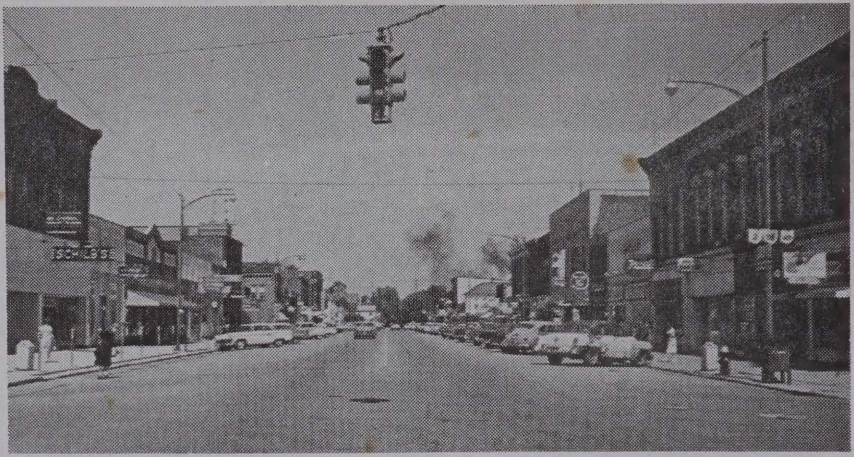
The Family Shoppe
Wearing Apparel and Shoes for the Entire Family
Roxanna F. Volkert — Hicksville, Ohio

diana, people seem to consume their first legal beer.

Vietnam was for five Presidents a "pandora's box." We sent a number of young men from Hicksville to be involved with the conflict. We were very lucky in this war, however, as Hicksville did not sacrifice a man to this fruitless cause. The anti-war sentiment that was viewed across the nation really was not very strong in the village. At this period negative opinions could be heard about the war, but Hicksville was not the scene of any demonstrations, or wild antics to protest United State involvement.

One protesting group that could be heard in Hicksville, in the 1960's were parents. The Beatles came upon the scene in 1963 and had hair which covered the tops of their ears and bangs upon their foreheads. The popular songs that these groups and others to follow them, brought a new look to the boys and girls. The ducktails, butches and crewcuts gradually gave way to bangs and hair covered the males ears and neck. The shock of this caused many to label these individuals sissies and an assorted group of nicknames.

The girls gradually wore dresses that came above their knees and eventually the 'heaven forbidden' wearing of pants to school was allowed. Few young adults of today will forget the dim view the local school took on the matter. Our school adopted dress codes feeling that a boy with short hair and side burns, his shirt tail properly tucked in, would end up with a more enlightened education.


Hicksville's business district of the early '60's shows many changes from early Hicksville. *Photo submitted by Kermit Agler*

The young ladies of the 60's were once all sent home at our local High School and Junior High for wearing pants to school.

The times changed and as people discovered their sons were not going to turn into rabid communists, and their daughters, guerillas, the local negative attitude on the issue subsided.

An area that inner relates with the school is sports. What was a very musically inclined community in the first thirty years of the century is now a sports minded one. I think a lot of credit for this has to be given to George Cherry and Albert Bellesari. Mr. Cherry has worked with the athletic program and the youth for years. Mr. Bellesari came to Hicksville in 1965, one year after Hicksville had went undefeated in football. Bellesari liked the trend established by the team before him and hoped to continue that. He began a program from Junior High age and up in the school to get the kids thinking about two things; the will to win fairly, and the operation of any successful organization as a team. Team is never spelled with an "I", was one of his favorite cliches's.

Bellesari convinced the young people who played football that they could win, and through his guidance more than just a highly successful year after year football program developed. The entire school was aflame with the concept that they could be winners. It was, and is, a

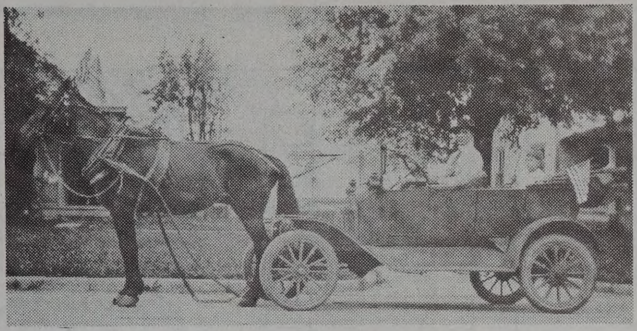
Go Gambles

Lew &
Marilyn
Burggrave

HICKSVILLE, OHIO

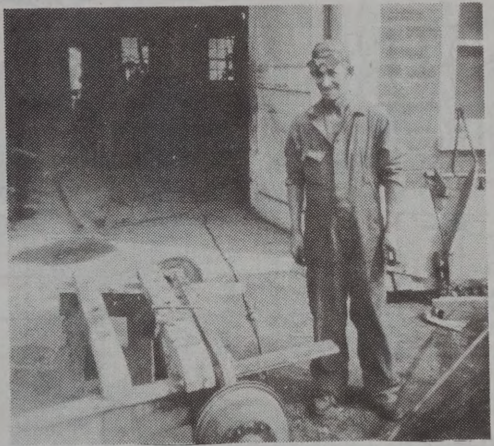
Get Out From
Under Your Beard
After The
Centennial!

HART'S
BARBER SHOP

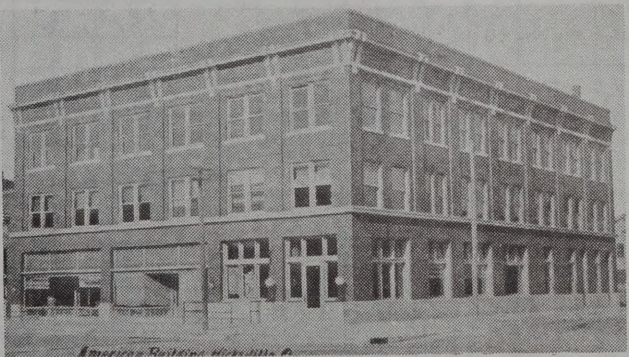


W. W. I patriotism was shown above by J. O. Longsworth and his son Robert in a "Gasoline Sunday" when gas wasn't used to aid the war effort. Photo submitted by Mrs. Paul Glatz

In 1953 the Community Memorial Hospital opened its Columbus Street doors to serve the community. Photo submitted by Kermit Agler



Harry Taggart, above, ran a welding shop from 1943-46 in the E. High Street building where the Derrill Cole shop now stands across from the Hicksville Grain Company.
Photo submitted by James Taggart



Once called the "most modern building in Northwest Ohio" the American Building still stands at the corner of High and Maple Streets.
Photo submitted by Kermit Agler

WE STARTED LONG AGO

Times were different then, but folks were the same as they are now. They knew we were giving them a fair shake. And today, like years ago, they're still putting faith in us. We reckon with folks like that behind us we've got a good thing going.

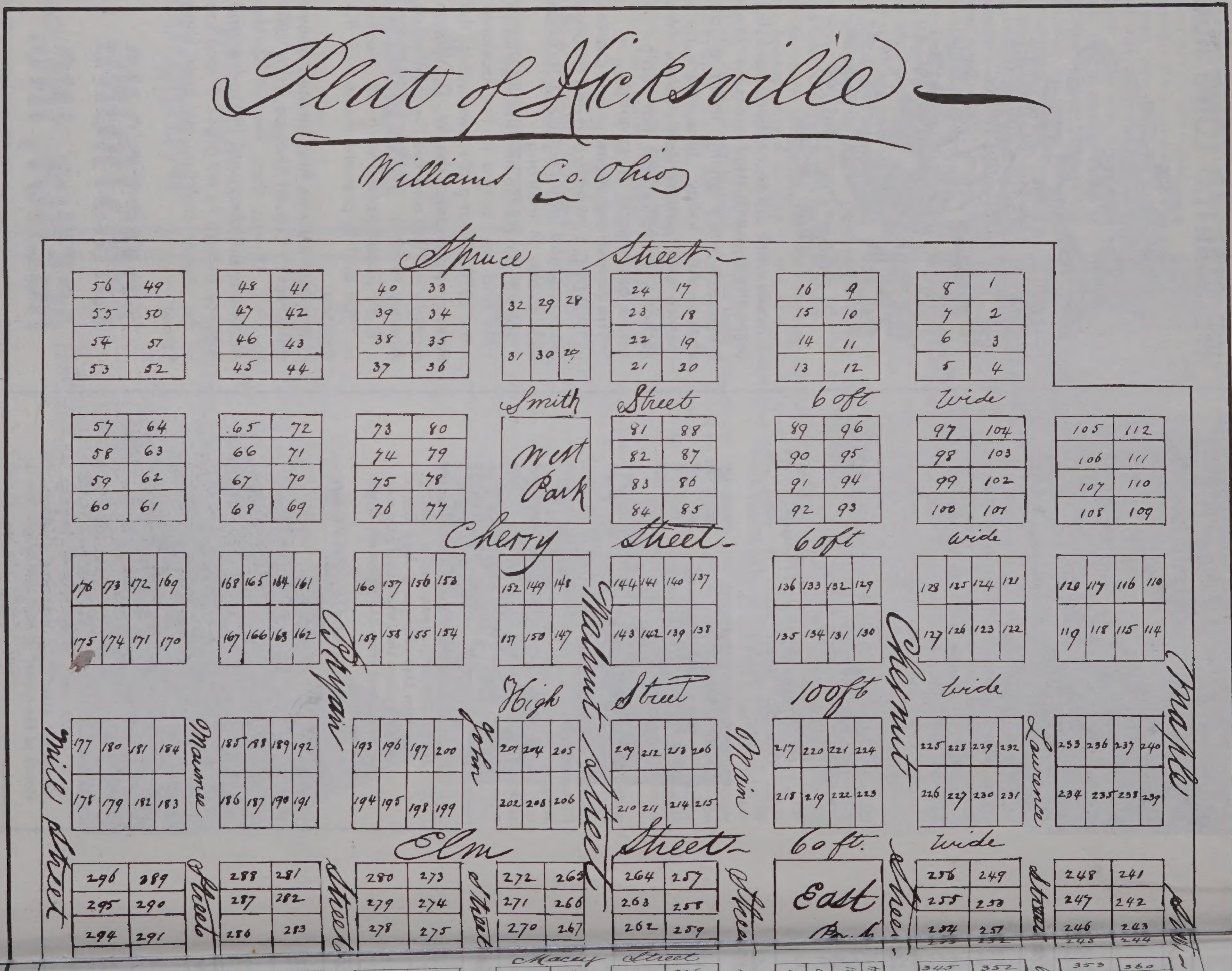
The Armstrong Agency was started in 1900 by E. F. Armstrong and George Simmons and was continued through 1930 by Mr. Armstrong.

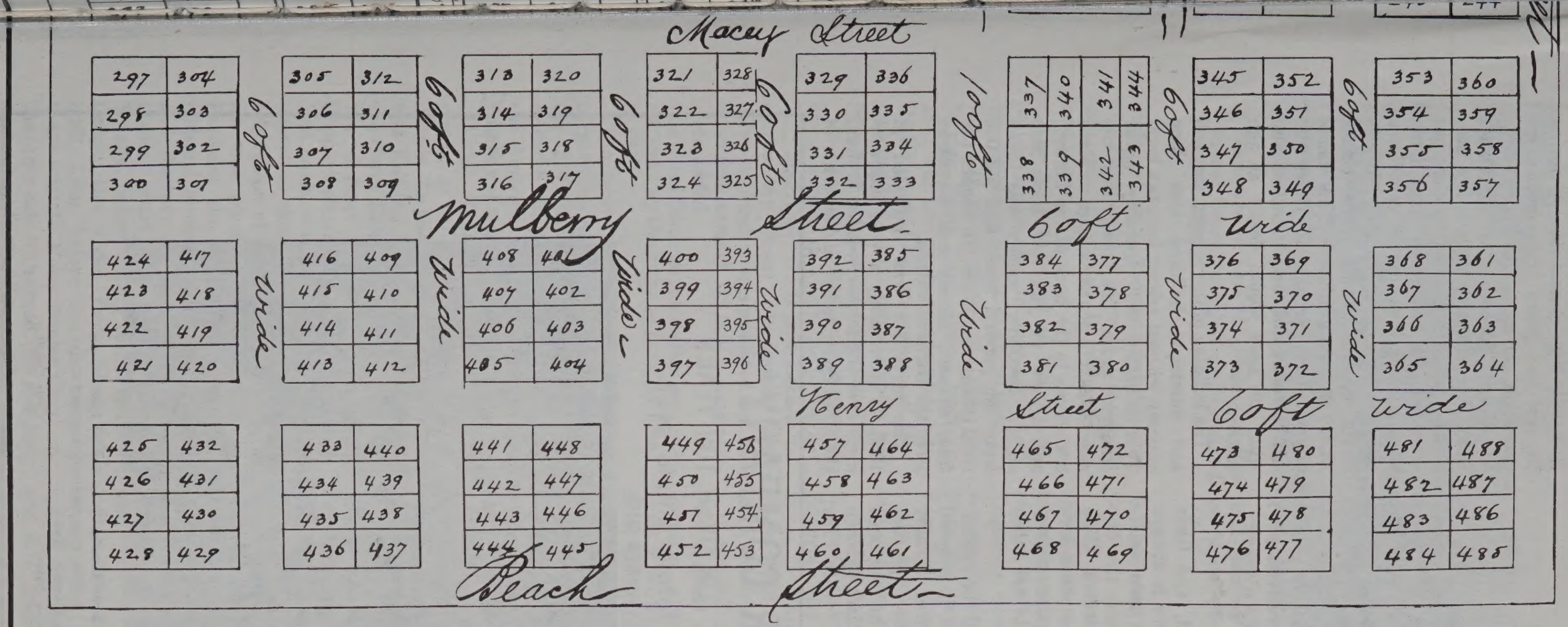
John R. Blosser joined the Agency in 1930 and was active in the business until 1970. During his ownership the Agency purchased the W. D. Wilson Agency in 1940 and the George Poole Agency in 1946.

R. P. Green joined with Mr. Blosser in 1968 and is present owner of the Agency.

The Agency was first located above the present Casual Shoppe from 1900 to 1907. It was then moved to the American Building until 1943 when the Agency moved to its present location in the Huber Building on East High Street.

ARMSTRONG AGENCY, INC.


Plat of Hicksville
Williams Co. Ohio
Spruce Street
56 49 55 50 54 51 53 52
48 41 47 42 46 43 45 44
40 33 39 34 38 35 37 36
32 29 28 31 30 27
24 17 23 18 22 19 21 20
16 9 15 10 14 11 13 12
8 1 7 2 6 3 5 4
Smith Street 6 oft Wide
57 64 58 63 59 62 60 61
65 72 66 71 67 70 68 69
73 80 74 79 75 78 76 77
West Park
81 88 82 87 83 86 84 85
89 96 90 95 91 94 92 93
97 104 98 103 99 102 100 101
105 112 106 111 107 110 108 109
Cherry Street 6oft wide
176 173 172 169 175 174 171 170
168 165 164 161 167 166 163 162
160 157 156 153 159 158 155 154
152 149 148 151 150 147
144 141 140 137 143 142 139 138
136 133 132 129 135 134 131 130
128 125 124 121 127 126 123 122
120 117 116 113 119 118 115 114
High Street 100ft wide
177 180 181 184 178 179 182 183
185 188 189 192 186 187 190 191
193 196 197 200 194 195 198 199
201 204 205 202 203 206
209 212 213 216 210 211 214 215
217 220 221 224 218 219 222 223
225 228 229 232 226 227 230 231
233 236 237 240 234 235 238 239
Elm Street 60 ft. Wide
296 289 295 290 294 291
288 281 287 282 286 283
280 273 279 274 278 275
272 265 271 266 270 267
264 257 263 258 262 259
East Park
256 249 255 250 254 251
248 241 247 242 246 243 245 244
Macey Street
345 352 353 360
Mill Street
Maumee Street
Bryan Street
John Street
Walnut Street
Main Street
Chestnut Street
Lawrence Street
Mackle Street



Original plat of Hicksville, September 26, 1837

State of Ohio
Williams County
September 26, 1837

I, Miller Arrowsmith County Surveyor of the County and State aforesaid Do hereby certify this be a correct Platt and Field Notes - of the town of Hicksville - as set forth herein.

Miller Arrowsmith

Notes and references connected with the Attached Plat of Hicksville situated on section Twenty One Township Four North of Range one East in the County of Williams and State of Ohio
The lots are fifty by one hundred feet
The stone is planted on the west corner of the Public Square fronting on Main and Macey Streets
The streets crop at right angles and their width is designated on the Plat in feet
The East and West Parks are designed for pleasure grounds, or for further use as the proprietors may hereafter designate
Said out and made this twenty sixth September in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and thirty seven, by the owners and proprietors

John A. Bryan
Henry W. Hicks
by his attorney in fact

Plat of Hicksville (O.)
Recorder's Office
Williams County, Ohio

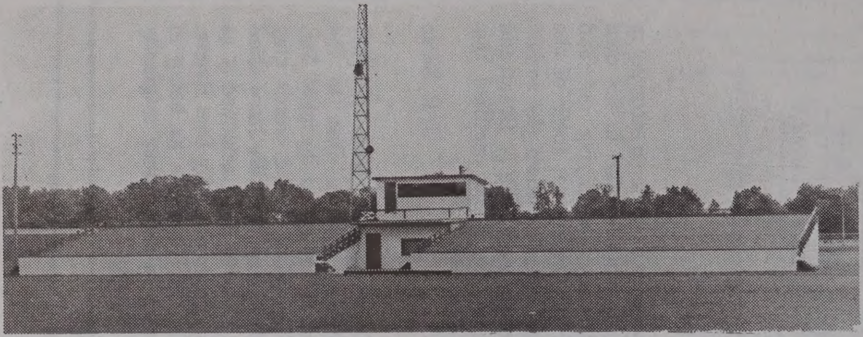
This Town Plat deed received for record December 4th A.D. 1837 and recorded December 23 A.D. 1837 in Vol. 4th Pages 87 & 88 of the records for deeds for said County. V. C. Sessions Recorder

The State of Ohio
Franklin County

Before me Joseph R. Swan President Judge of the Court of Common Pleas in and for said county and the twelfth judicial Circuit, personally appeared John A. Bryan in his own proper person and also an attorney in fact of Henry W. Hicks, acknowledged in his own right, and as said Attorney the laying out and dedication to the public as therein set forth of the within described town and that said town plat so laid out is the voluntary act of the said John A. Bryan and Henry W. Hicks. Acknowledged and certified this 27th day of November A.D. 1837.

J. R. Swan

The above copy was taken verbatum from the 1837 plat written by Miller Arrowsmith. Due to the condition of the plat and in trying to decipher Mr. Arrowsmith's handwriting, some of the words may have been unintentionally misspelled. We have tried for accuracy in this and hope to have achieved it as much as possible. This was submitted by Don Evans. Editors Note: The noting of Hicksville as being in Williams County is correct as the county originally extended to include the Village.



In 1974, through the efforts of the Hicksville Athletic Boosters and community support the "Home of the Aces" stadium bleachers were realized at the local football field. The permanent structure is equipped with a sound booth and refreshment stand.

fever that has yet to subside in the community.

Coach Bellesari resigned as chief mentor to tackle a new challenge near Columbus. Under his training was a young man who acted as his assistant. Bill Metz took over Coach Bellesari's reign, and Hicksville High School's football team has completed two years in a row without a loss.

With the well rounded coaching abilities of Tom Hallett and Jerry Balser, the local High School basketball players have been the procurers of many victories of late. Whatever the sport; golf, wrestling, baseball, cross country, volleyball, and Girls basketball, the will to win is always there. Winning traditions have resulted in a big rivalry against the fine athletic system the Fairview High School possesses. To see these two schools battle it out, requires a very early arrival, as the seats are taken hours before the game.

To provide the youth of the region, whose interests were not to proceed on to an institution of higher learning after graduating, a unique opportunity developed in 1969. The four area counties voted to build a place to teach students career skills, with the thinking that they would immediately be prepared for the job world. A Hicksville High School student during his last two years of his secondary education, can attend the Four County Vocational School near Archbold, Ohio. Aproximately twenty-five students from each graduating class has attended this institution since 1969. The student receives a certificate from the Four County school, but is in direct control of his home school where he then graduates. This school offers a fine opportunity for those who can be certain of their vocations and what job they would desire at age sixteen.

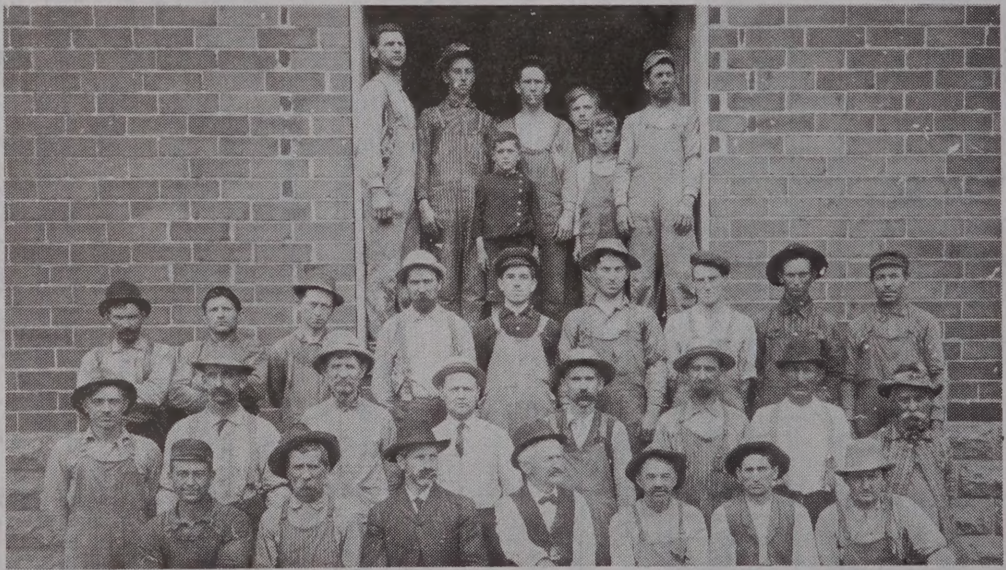
The building of the present fire hall and municipal building was done entirely without asking for a tax levy. This situation will probably never transpire again. The library paid the city $10,000 to get the village to leave it's offices in the back of the library, and a new 99 year old lease was signed. Secondly, money was taken from the general fund, and $45,000 from intangiable taxes. To finance the final amount, money was borrowed from the Hicksville Bank.

The structure was dedicated in 1965. It is certainly a vast improvement over the former wooden firehall, the small Police booth on the corner of

THE CROOK-MILLER COMPANY

DOING BUSINESS IN HICKSVILLE FOR OVER 100 YEARS

Do you recognize any of these former employees?
This picture is some 60 years old.



Front Row — Messrs Garver, Sam Fulmer, Tom Hood, E. W. Crook, Dhieo Baker, John Wright (Jack's father) Thieo Dowell. Second row Messrs , Tom Buy, Stafford, Leonard Crook, Isaiah Cahill, , Wright, Third row Messr's Onstott, Wyatt, Doss Otis (Ken's father), , Lash, . Fourth row, Messr's Clair Cahill, Ernest Fulmer,

Dedicated in 1965 the Hicksville Municipal Building stands on South Main Street housing the Hicksville Police Department, Fire Department and the village offices.

High and Main, and the needed space the library retained with the clerk department vacated. It made everyone happy!

The modern period of the sixties and seventies saw the construction of new buildings for two financial institutions. In the summer of 1960, the former Hicks Land Office, built in 1840 was moved north one plat. The Building and Loan moved out of this building and into a new structure we presently view, on October 20, 1960.

In 1970 the Hicksville Bank moved from its building where the Hicksville T.V. and Appliance is now located, to across the street. A double lane drive-up window was provided and an extended amount of teller windows were added.

A third financial institution entered the town by the name of the City Loan in 1968.

The town also developed in the corporation limits on the west edge. In the 1950's the Hi-lanes Bowling Alley replaced the one in the basement of the American Building. A restaurant (Harkey's) was built beside this.

Virgil Rohrs also placed a gas station at the edge of town in that decade. To join this group in the 1960's was Kaduk's Electric which replaced the Curry Electric Appliances. Beside the defunct National Ideal, Stan Pepple built a car lot, he then sold it to Bud Laub, who has moved his entire operation there. With Noah Yoder's acquisition of the Ford dealership, a lot was placed in the next area. Between the Bud Laub Chevrolet, Oldsmobile dealership, and the Ford and Mercury car lot there is a large trailer court named El Grande. Finally, before coming to the Gordon Creek, the Yoder Body Shop was built. Long before the dawning of these was the Nolte Trailer Court on the other side of the road. We also had an Ashland Oil Bulk station that stood on the east side of Noltes Trailer Court.

With the other developments the fifties and sixties had shown, by 1966 two car washes were built. Rohr's gas station, and a car wash on East Edgerton Street, east side of the Gospel Tabernacle Church was the place one could wash their vehicles. For five minutes and twenty-five cents, your car would shine. It was quite a thing at the time.

We also have two laundromats, The E-Con-O-Wash on the corner of East Edgerton and Wendell Ave., and the Speed-E-Clean on South Wendell Ave. These 1950 inovations were continually modernized in the 60's.

In the fall of 1964 to support the Presidential opponent of Lyndon Johnson, a benefit walk was held. Dudley Wirick staged a Sunday hike from Hicksville to Fort Wayne and back. All of this was to be accomplished in one day, and the money he made he submitted to the ill fated Barry Goldwater campaign.

The corporation limits at the west of town was packed with throngs of people watching in amazement as the likeable Wirick somehow completed this long walk in one piece.

The dawn of our present decade saw the amiable, Jay T. Volkert assume the office of Mayor in 1972. One of his first major problems in the summer of that year was gypsies! A number of them had conglomerated at the Defiance County Fairgrounds. Many of the people of Hicksville had never seen the mythical band of people. The gypsies created little problems and shortly before the fair, they proceeded in their motorized caravans to another site.

One individual who is still going strong in the 1970's is Bill Hees. He is known to virtually all of the citizens, and is a friend to all. Bill and his assortment of bicycles have been delivering newspapers and advertisement flyers for decades. He also provides the best shoe shine in town, having worked at an assortment of the barber shops in town.

1972 and '73 were summers of vast wind storms. The sound of chainsaws could be heard throughout the night as trees were removed off of houses and roadways.

The summers of 1973-74 were ones of many U.F.O. sitings. The Hicksville Fire Department was called to the stateline in the summer of 1974. The possibility that a flying saucer had created this blaze was always an unanswered question. Many of the people, and the Defiance Crescent News, voiced an opinion that it was indeed a U.F.O. Many nights in that summer people saw things flying in the sky that certainly were not airplanes. Whatever they were, they seemed to be friendly.

This booklet is not intended to be a political science review, but the local sentiment on Watergate, and the first resignation of a United States President was a highly talked of issue. The town, from its voting records, seems to be Republican. When it became very apparent that President Nixon was indeed the ring leader of an illegal cover-up of justice, most of the village was open minded enough to cast partisan beliefs aside. The town and our nation can put up with a lot of questionable things our government officials do. What seemed to be the Presidents downfall in the town, was his continual rebuttals in regards to the truth, this, the village could not tolerate, a liar!

A second voice heard in our town was the partisan one. Some fine citizens felt that this was common among most politicians, or it was just a Democrat and Republican issue. The evidence of his guilt was there and this group was eventually proved wrong.

Still in use today is the original Hicks Land office, which was built in 1840. Still the original building, it has been preserved through the years in its original state.

A third faction was just sick of hearing the word Watergate, and did not care what happened. The issue was a high drama of our lives for two years and it is understandable that the issue could become a bit boring. But it will possibly be the highlight of the 1970's, and it's too bad that some people were not interested in this piece of history.

On the week leading up to the August 8th resignation, the village and nation buzzed with speculation. This was the week the Presidents political ship was sunk! He lost virtually all of his primary supporters on the House Judiciary Committee, one of these being our own Congressman, Delbert Latta. The Presidents cover-up was a failure, and the nation and town breathed a heavy sigh of relief, when President Ford assumed power. But with this sigh of relief was also the thoughts of the many lessons the episode left in the hearts of many.

"It's such a nice place"

The year 1975, of course, brings us to a point in time when today is not history, but tomorrow it will be. The village is the fine place to live because of the sacrifice and fortitude shown by a few individuals year after year.

They were all striving to see that when Hicksville would celebrate one hundred years as an incorporated village, that it would indeed be, "the town worth while."

The Jaycee's, "the young men of action," who are presenting the Centennial Celebration, have a new slogan for the next hundred years. We have designated Hicksville as, "such a nice place."

Whichever slogan you prefer, the town is one that we are all proud to be members of. If the challenge I have been presented in writing this book produces only one thing, I hope it is total appreciation for the development of this town by people of the past. It was their toil and devotion to the concept of a small, but always proud community, that should provide the necessary challenge for us to continue in their footsteps. I urge all of you to get involved in any form. Attend the church of your choice, patronize our many stores, or join one of our many clubs and organizations.

I would like to close my part of the booklet with a cliche, when applied correctly would solve any problem I can think of in existence. It was written by a youth whose early days were spent in a log cabin, and through a total commitment to hard work, and just principles became President of the United States.

> "the government of the people,
> by the people and for the people
> shall not perish from the earth"
> — Lincoln

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and Best Wishes
from the
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Church and Organization Histories

The second part of this booklet is the response received from a series of printed requests. The Hicksville News-Tribune asked that all organizations, churches and historical photos and papers be brought to their office by May 15, 1975.

Upon receiving the written material, it was found that some were to long to include in our limited space and others were turned in as outlines. When this was the case, James Meyers and his wife, Marcia, worked diligently to see the following pages materialize. The many citizens who either wrote or compiled the information are listed at the bottom of each article.

Hicksville Mennonite Church

The Hicksville Mennonite Church found its beginning in 1961 when the former Bretheran Church at 235 W. Arthur was purchased by the small congregation. Henry Miller served the group of 40 until 1964 when Ralph Yoder accepted the call to pastor the church.

The membership has now doubled and the June Bible School has registered more than one hundred. The Sunday schedule includes Sunday and worship service in the morning and an evening young peoples meeting. Prayer meetings take place every Wednesday evening. Church members spend time helping in rest homes, the Defiance County Home and the Rescue Mission in Fort Wayne. Other projects include sewing for the poor and needy, the sending of Christmas

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bundles all over the world, giving clothing to the needy, canning and freezing food for the missions and helping in Mennonite disaster service which helps victims of floods, storms and other natural ravagers.

September finds the congregation busy with the relief sale near Goshen, Indiana.

At the present time, the church has a young couple serving in Bogota, Columbia in Central America. They are also active in the Hicksville Fish program. Another minister, Jake Schrock was ordained in 1974 and is helping with the church.

— Compiled by Rev. Ralph Yoder

St. Michael's Catholic Church

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St. Michael's Catholic Church

The history of St. Michael's Parish actually dates back to 1846 when there were only a few Catholic families in Hicksville. At that time a priest came from Toledo twice a year to hold services. The records of St. Michael's go back to the year 1878 when a priest from Defiance and then from Antwerp ministered to the people.

St. Michael's first church, constructed in 1880, was a small frame building on Edgerton Street. In recent years the building was used by the Assembly of God congregation and since has been razed.

As St. Michael's congregation grew the original facilities became inadequate. In 1919, under the ministry of Rev. O. C. Kappus, plans were made for a new place of worship. On May 9, 1920, Bishop Schrembs of Toledo laid the corner stone of the new church. The W. L. Johnson Construction Company was engaged to erect the church and most of the work, from the first day to the last, was done by men from Hicksville.

The church itself is built according to the Lombard-Romanesque style of architecture. All the inside work, furniture, altars, windows, etc., were specially made to harmonize with the rest of the building. The furniture, of white oak, was made by The Tiffin Manufacturing Company. The three altars contain original paintings from the hand of Robert Vittur of Lima. The stained glass windows were made by The Emil Frei Art Glass Company of St. Louis, Mo.

When an addition was made to the church, several major changes were made in 1966. A new gymnasium, kitchen and educational rooms were added. In addition to the athletic programs the gymnasium also offers its facilities to the bloodmobile. The parish fall festivals and other social events of the community are held in the gymnasium.

In 1967 and '68 the parish built a rectory west of the church for whenever the parish is assigned a full-time priest. The present pastor, Rev. Jerome Niedermier, lives in Antwerp and serves parishes at Hicksville and Antwerp.

From a small beginning St. Michael's Parish has increased to over 900 members.

— Compiled by
Rev. Jerome Neidemier

Saint Paul's Episcopal Church

This is the name of the beautiful little Episcopal Church in this village, built by the Hon. Alfred P. Edgerton. The first service of the Protestant Episcopal Church held in Hicksville was on Sunday, November 9, 1873. The Rt. Rev. Joseph C. Talbot, Bishop of the Diocese of Indiana, who was visiting his friend, Mr. Edgerton, preached after Morning Prayer to a large congregation in the Presbyterian House of Worship. After the conclusion of the service, the Bishop suggested to Mr. Edgerton the erection of a church for the benefit of his family, the friends visiting him during the summer and the people of the village. Mr. Edgerton promptly accepted the suggestion and erected the church in the orchard across the street from his home. He conveyed it in trust to the Diocese of Ohio, as a free gift, to be forever held as a free church.

On Sunday, October 17, 1875, 10:30 a.m. the church was consecrated by Bishop Talbot and the Rev. C. C. Tate of Fort Wayne. In the afternoon at 3:30 the church was again opened for prayer and the administration of Holy Baptism. The Bishop received as the first member of the church, the infant Robert Swartwout, a grandson of Mr. Edgerton. Again at half past seven, the house of worship was filled to overflowing for the third time that day.

The design and plans for the church were prepared by Bishop Talbot. It is a wooden edifice, finished on the interior in ash with an open roof and has square Elizabethan windows of stained glass imported from England.

The first and only Rector of St. Paul's was the Rev. Abraham V. Gorrell who arrived in 1876. His wife, Mary Jane, died at the age of 38 and was buried in Hicksville on November 13, 1877. In 1878 Mr. Gorrell became the Rector of the newly built Grace Church, Defiance.

Names of the families appearing in the early records include the following: Edgerton, Gorrell, Brooks, Babbitt, Cory, Latty, Bracy, Bungan, O'Neal, Ainsworth, Arrowsmith, Cooley, Post and Tannehill. These early Families have contributed much toward the development of our community.

Through the years services have been held intermittenly by the Rectors of Defiance and Bryan. The congregation though small has strived to maintain the church since it is one of the oldest buildings in the village.

The Hon. A. P. Edgerton, an Episcopalian, in addition to assuming the entire cost for building St. Paul's Church personally donated the land and made a generous contribution toward the construction cost of the earliest churches in the village.

A group of concerned civic-minded citizens who call themselves "The Friends of St. Paul's" are endeavoring to restore the church so that it can be visited by the public during Hicksville's Centennial.

— Compiled by Mrs. Waldo May

First Presbyterian Church

First Presbyterian Church

In 1837, Alfred P. Edgerton, the father of our village, arrived from New York as General Agent for the Hicks and American Land Companies. The same year witnessed the separation of the Presbyterian Church into the Old School and New School divisions respectively.

In the 1840's, the Rev. J. M. Crabb, a Kentuckian of great evangelical zeal and a missionary for the Old School Presbytery of Maumee, ministered to the needs of the people of this geographical area. In 1848, he organized the Union Church, near Farmer, which was better known as the Lost Creek Presbyterian Church. A number of Hicksville residents were members of the Union Church congre-

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gation, and it was only a matter of time until they and others would desire a church nearer home. Thus it was that on March 7, 1855, they met in the log schoolhouse on the farm of James Maxwell, at the northwest corner of the Meuse Argonne-Buckskin Road intersection, to discuss the possibility of such a church. A petition to organize a Presbyterian Church in Hicksville, bearing sixteen signatures was drafted. The Petition was presented to the Presbytery at its March 29, 1855 meeting in the West Bethesda Church, near Montpelier. Presbytery appointed an organizing committee consisting of Rev. J. M. Crabb and Elders Arthur Cleland and Thomas Richardson, all of the Union Church, with authority to organize a Congregation "if the way be clear." The Committee reported back to Presbytery at its June 25th, 1855, meeting that the Church had been organized in Hicksville on May 12, 1855.

The Rev. J. M. Crabb was called as our first Pastor, he, sharing his time between the Hicksville and Lost Creek Churches. The two churches had the same pastors for many years thereafter. Of the charter members eleven were received by transfer from the Lost Creek Church including Abraham Miller and James Miller, our first Elders, and Israel Richards, James Maxwell and Matthew Scott, our first Trustees. The Hicksville Church is truly a child of the Lost Creek Congregation.

The Presbyterians erected the first church building in Hicksville. The Church which stood on the northeast corner of Bryan and High Streets was erected on four lots, which along with $500 towards construction expenses, was given by Hon. Alfred P. Edgerton. It was constructed of locally milled lumber and locally fired brick. Construction commenced on February 15, 1858, and the building was completed October 23, 1858, at a cost of $1,818. The builders were John Adams Jr. and Alexander Smith.

The Old School Presbyterian Church under whose authority the Hicksville Church was organized looked with askance upon the ecumenical nature of the New School Presbyterians, who were New England in background and the dominant division of the Church throughout Northern Ohio. They freely interchanged pulpits with the Congregationalists and with the Congregationalists permitted, The American Home Missionary Society, an agency independent of the church, to administer their missions, and they held a less consiliatory view on permitting slave holders to hold church membership. The organizing Presbytery had a provision inserted in the deed to the Hicksville Church that the premises would never be used by the New School division. Nevertheless, the Hicksville Church has been very ecumenical from the very day of its organization. Alfred P. Edgerton, an Episcopalian, served as the first church treasurer and as a Trustee. In 1870, immediately following the reunion of the Old School and New School division of the Presbyterian Church, the congregation called Rev. S. S. Hyde a Congregationalist and a New Englander as pastor; in 1882, Rev. Francis M. Baker, a minister of the Evangelical Church was called as pastor; in 1894, Rev. John A. Ketrow a minister of the Reformed Church was called as pastor, and in 1958 the Rev. Roy F. Schutz a member of The United Brethern Church was called as pastor, all four ministers being received or ordained prior to their installation. In most recent years ministers of the Christian Church have served as supplies. In 1870 - 75, Rev. Hyde, being the only resident minister in town willingly served the pastoral needs of the entire village. From about 1858 - 1876, before their first house of worship was built, the Methodists used the facilities on alternate Sundays. The Lutheran Congregation was organized and held services in the church in 1877. The Right Rev. Joseph C. Talbot, Bishop of the Diocese of Ind., held the first service of the Episcopal Church in Hicksville at the Presbyterian Church November 9, 1873.

The life of the Congregation has always been marked by a strong outreach consciousness in respect to Foreign and National Missions as well as in community interests and responsibilities. The Rev. James Quick, 1878 - 82, served for many years as a missionary in Ceylon. Rev. Quick, organized the Ladies Missionary Associations, the forerunner of todays United Presbyterian Women. Rev. Grant Jones 1908-09, came to the Hicksville Church from the mission fields in India, and returned there at the conclusion of his pastorate here. Rev. J. Norman Jones 1910 - 13, and Rev. Ulysses S. Bartz, 1920-23, are particularly remembered for having brought our mission giving to its highest levels. Rev. S. S. Hyde was the temperance leader of the community, officer of the Old Settlers Association, Trustee of the Cemetery Association and Supt. of the Hicksville Union School and his many successors, with few exceptions have assumed community responsibilities.

The Congregation, having been blessed with a host of talented musicians, has particularly been known throughout the years for its excellent music. Several of the song leaders, in the period of the reed organ, held music schools in the Church for the public and for song leaders of other churches. The community remembers a consecutive series of quartets, who in addition to their contribution to worship services shared their talents and appreciation of music with the community. A number of pianists, organists and choir directors served more than a generation and the Congregation

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continues to enjoy one of the areas largest and most active choirs.

The Congregation at intervals throughout the years, improved their worship facilities. It's members excavated a basement, refurbished the sanctuary, installed a pipe organ and commissioned the construction and installation of stained glass windows of intricate design and splendor. However, the Church, a classic example of early church architecture and a landmark of the village's earlier days, was totally destroyed by fire on December 10, 1961. The fire, believed to have been caused by faulty wiring in the pipe organ, occured late in the afternoon of a cold and windy Sunday. Although every effort was made by local and area Fire Departments, the Church was completely destroyed.

Upon the loss of the Church building, at the same time being without a resident Pastor, the Congregation was faced with a period of serious introspection. While the ruins still smoldered, the Methodist Church Fellowship, offered their facilities for use as needed. Within the day the Session voted to accept their offer and their facilities were used until January 14, 1962.

Although dollars were few, there was an abundance of spirit and dedication and on April 15, 1962, the members voted to rebuild. On May 15, 1962, because of inadequate space at the Grange Hall, plans were made to hold services in the Elementary School on West Arthur Street.

After an offer of three acres of land from Mr. and Mrs. Hugh Husted was made known, the Session petitioned Presbytery for permission to purchase the Hinsch property on West Arthur Street. Permission was granted.

The new Presbyterian Church was dedicated December 13, 1964. The simple, design of the church blends well in it's spacious surroundings on the outside and provides access, without steps, to a sanctuary with a seating capacity of 200.

The facilities also include eight classrooms, a nursery with a sound system from the sanctuary, Pastor's Study, Choir Room, Fellowship Hall, a well equipped kitchen and ample storage space for supplies.

The present pastor is Rev. Calvin C. Martin.

— Compiled by Mrs. Guy Volkert
and Rev. Calvin Martin

Old Order "Amish" Mennonite Church

The Amish Mennonite Church of Hicksville was started in April of 1914 by a small group which settled near Mark Center, Ohio, and later, as the congregation grew, around Sherwood. The descendants of this group are now a part of the Hicksville community.

The first settlers, comprised of 8 or 9 families, came from Kansas, Illinois, Indiana and Holmes Co., Ohio. At the present time, 28 families make up the Hicksville Amish Church, which is served by Bishop Victor P. Yoder and ministers Amos P. Yoder and David Raber.

The Old Order Amish are a sect of Mennonites which was founded by Jacob Amman in the 17th century. The Amish believe in living a simple life, doing without most of the modern conveniences of the present day life.

Farm life is very much encouraged among the Amish, although there are many that also work as carpenters and in factories.

Church and Sunday School services are held in the homes of the members as are all funerals and weddings. Usually when a congregation grows to 30 or 40 families, the church is divided into 2 congregations. Correct discipline and rectitude are considered more important elements in Christian life, then learning and doctrinal points. The bearing of arms and taking of oaths are regarded as wrong and the holding of public offices is not encouraged. Divorce is condemned except on grounds of adultery.

The plain garb or style of clothing has been handed down from generation to generation. The women and girls always wear a head covering or prayer cap and an Amish man wears a beard.

Still a common sight in Hicksville are the people of the Amish faith, who still travel in the simple horse and carriage style.

In most Amish settlements, farming is still done with horses, however in some localities, such as Hicksville, the tractor is used. Amish do not own or drive cars, but drive to church meetings and other short distances with horse and buggy.

— Compiled by
Mr. and Mrs. Irv Hochstetler

First Church of Christ

There were in the early seventies, a few people desirous of starting a Church of Christ in the Hicksville community. These people were formally organized on January 15, 1875, by L. L. Carpenter of Wabash, Ind., with a charter membership of 26.

For two years they met in rented halls. Ministers from nearby towns preached until April 1, 1875, when E. Levitt began his pastoral labors. The first house of worship was erected in 1877. The present building was

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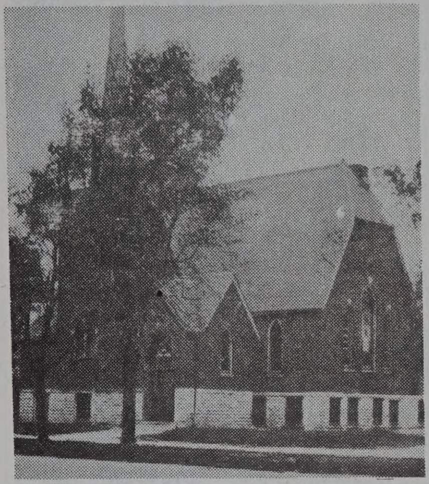
dedicated in 1896 by E. V. Zollers of Hiram College.



Church of Christ

The Ladies Aid was begun in 1888. In 1884, the church bell had been purchased at the cost of $225.00. Sister Farmer donated a valuable and suitably located parsonage to the church. Twenty men, of which 5 were not members of the congregation, pledged themselves to pay for an organ. Brother Serril was appointed a committee of one to get a man to pump the organ each Sunday. Coal was purchased in 1910 at the cost of $3.40 per ton. Throughout the years the organist and choir director were paid $1.00 per Sunday and the violinist was paid a flat rate of $50.00 per year.

There was a fire in the parsonage in 1958. This structure was razed in 1959 and in 1960 a house across the street was purchased. The church observed its 85th anniversary on January 31, 1960, when Charles Russell was the minister. Other speakers for the day were William Lower, (A. Timothy from the church), Herbert Johnson of Bryan, John Paul Hill of Coburn Corners and Lee Moore of Defiance.

In 1967, a new baptistry was installed and the parsonage was sold. The Dr. Hitt property, beside the church building, was purchased.

In April of 1972 ground-breaking ceremonies for the new educational unit took place. This unit was dedicated in 1973 with William Lower as the speaker.

John Paul Hill is the present minister with a new youth minister, David Foust to begin his ministry in June of 1975. The 100th anniversary of the First Church of Christ will be observed on Rally Day in 1975.

— Compiled by Mrs. Madge Lower

Grace United Methodist Church

The first Methodist Episcopal Church was organized around July 1, 1840. Once every two weeks Rev. J. D. Martin would come to preach. In the first 12 or 15 years the membership was quite small, consisting of mostly women. Sometimes there were a few men, but eventually because of death or other reasons, the women were left to struggle on alone. These early meetings were held in the schoolhouse by firelight.

Finally, the Church began to increase both numerically and financially and in 1875 Hicksville was made head of the circuit. The Rev. B. Wallace was the first pastor of this new circuit and took up his residence here.

That same year, 1875, Hon. A. P. Edgerton donated a piece of land large enough to build a Church and parsonage on the corner of Main and Edgerton Streets.

The parsonage was built for $1,000 and a year later in 1876, the church was built at a cost of $5,000. At this time the membership consisted of 300 men and women.

From 1858 to 1876 the Methodist Congregation had used the Presbyterian's Church. The text used for the first Methodist sermon was the first verse of the third chapter of John, first general Epistle.

As the years of the nineteenth century began to wane, the idea of a new church loomed on the horizon. Under Rev. A. A. Thomas's leadership, on December 17, 1899, a huge dark red brick church was built. It was located on High Street, across from the Johnson Memorial Library. This church consisted of two front doors, the right one leading directly into the sanctuary. Unlike most churches, the rows of seats faced the doorway. True sometimes that it was inconvenient, but it did prevent any late arrivals.

On Sunday morning, January 28, 1940, a fire started in the furnace which destroyed the whole building and practically all of the equipment. At first everyone was hopeless; but before the last embers had died, the Official Board of the Church unanimously decided to rebuild at once. Under the energetic leadership of Paul D. Chiles, the machinery of action was set in motion. On Easter Sunday of

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1940, cash and pledges amounting to $14,821.00 were laid upon an open Bible during the morning worship service. This and the money received from insurance helped to build the beautiful structure which we see today.

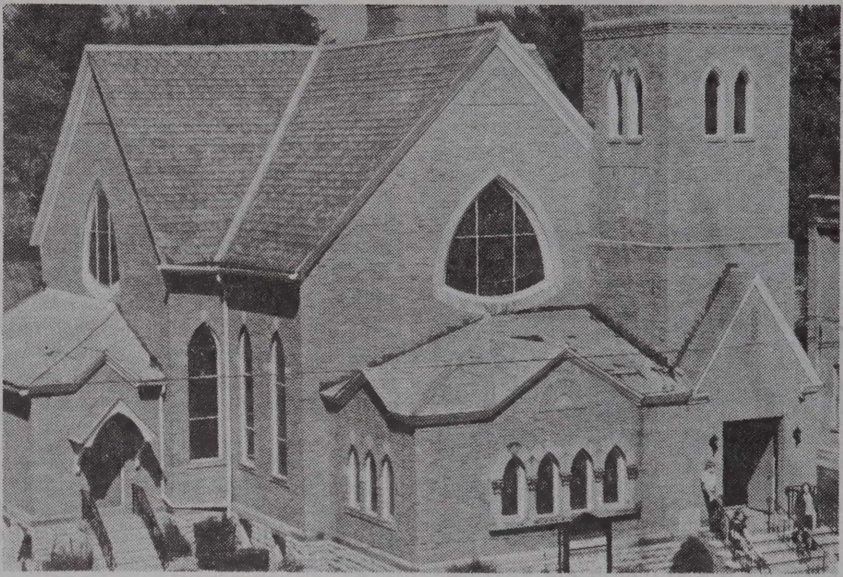
The Grace United Methodist Church is situated across from the Johnson Memorial Library on High Street. It is built of native Bloomville stone in terra-cotta shades. A bell and large gold cross top the structure.

The architect for the building was Ralph R. Orr of Columbus, Ohio. The Board and Building Committee felt that their selection of an architect was the most important decision they had to make. Mr. Orr, who had been building churches for fifteen years was considered by the Interdenominational Bureau of Church architecture to be one of the most able Church architects in the United States.

Second only in importance to the architect is the builder, Mr. A. B. Hamilton, of Columbus, Ohio, who had been a builder for over thirty years. He acted as the general superintendent, paying close attention to the quality of the material and the perfection in the workmanship.

Reverend George Campbell is the current minister. Preceding him were Rev. L. Eugene McCormack and Rev. Edwin Myers.

Compiled by Anne Wyatt



Trinity United Methodist Church

Grace United Methodist Church

Trinity United Methodist Church

Around 1833 David Landis moved into this territory and settled on the Maumee River. He requested the Miami Conference (from which he came) to send a minister into this region, but it was not until 1841 that Bishop Henry Kumler, Jr., opened a mission in Defiance and the surrounding country. Sometime that year he organized a United Brethren Church in Hicksville, Ohio.

Services were held in the schoolhouse until 1853. In that year a board of trustees was elected and a white frame church building was erected at its present location. At this time it was at the edge of town.

During the next 40 years the Church served the community well. In 1863, it was the center of recruiting activities for the Army in the Civil War. The question of a musical instrument for the Church was finally settled in 1880 and during 1881 (since the location was now the center of town) the bell in the tower was tolled to tell the people another person had died in the typhoid epidemic. The amount of strokes told the age of the last deceased person.

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In 1891 the pastor, Rev. A. E. Gaff and the congregation elected to build a new church. It was completed in 1892 at the cost of approximately 10 thousand dollars and was dedicated by Bishop Jonathan Weaver. At this time it was considered to be the best church building in the Northern Ohio Conference.

A basement, additional classrooms and parsonage were added to the church building during the pastorates of E. J. Halderman and J. W. Ferguson (1920 - 1922) at the cost of almost 20 thousand dollars.

In the passing years other faculties were updated. During the ministry of Rev. Cleo Roth (1943 - 1953) the basement was redecorated, new floors installed and more room made available for the Junior department. In 1962, new lights were installed in the sanctuary and the congregation approved remodeling the chancel of the church.

In 1965 the congregation voted to use the parsonage as an Educational Unit and erect a new parsonage. This was accomplished during the ministry of Rev. Victor Roebuck. The beautiful new parsonage cost just under 22 thousand dollars to build. With a few minor changes to the old parsonage, the Congregation gained a building adequate for Sunday School purposes.

Rev. Daniel Bare is presently serving as their pastor. He was preceded by Rev. Donald Patterson and Rev. Victor C. Roebuck.

— Compiled by Anne Wyatt

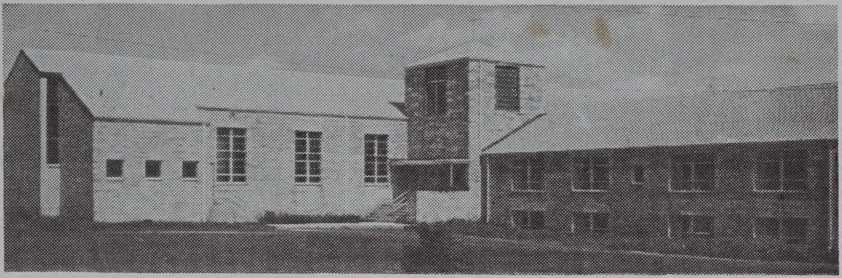
St. John's Lutheran Church

The beginning of St. John's Lutheran Church dates back to 1849 when the Lutherans at Lost Creek were first organized. Two years later, the Walnut Ridge Lutheran Church on the Fort Wayne Road, located one mile west of Georgetown, Indiana, was founded. From 1859 to 1877, occasional services were held in Hicksville by the following pastors — Bartholomew, Herring, Hunt, Synider and Long.

These first services were held in various buildings of the town until 1871 when the Presbyterian Church offered the use of their facility to the membership. The Lutherans accepted this gracious offer and by occasionally using the Commercial Hall, they got by until they could build their own.

In 1877, under the guidance of Rev. J. M. Long, the St. John's Evangelical Lutheran congregation was organized. There were 21 charter members.

By 1883, 2 years after Rev. J. Wesner had answered the call of pastor, membership stood at forty-two and plans were being made for building a new church. On February 7, 1884, the corner lot of N. Maple and East Smith (presently the location of the non-instrumental Church of Christ) was donated by A. P. Edgerton for the purpose of erecting a new church. Rev. Wesner laid the cornerstone in 1884. In it was placed a copy of "The News", the local newspaper at that time, one Bible with the inscription of the donor - B. S. Pettit, one copy of the Lutheran small catechism, one five-cent coin bearing the date 1884, a list of names of builders, building committee and trustees of the church and one copy of Christian Advocate.


St. John's Lutheran Church

In 1885, the dedication exercises were held with Rev. Harkey of Toledo preaching the dedication sermon. Since then many pastors have served the church.

In 1926, the Lost Creek Lutheran and the St. John's Lutheran congregation merged. Soon afterward a parsonage was purchased and Rev. J. A. Schofer began as pastor.

In 1934 at the 50th year anniversary celebration, twelve of the original members were present. Soon after the 102nd anniversary of Lutheranism in Hicksville, plans were discussed for the addition to the church. However, these plans were shelved and Lots 6, 7, 8 and 9 in Bunnells Addition were purchased for a new building site. These lots are located on East High Street and it is at this place that the St. John's Church now stands.

Rev. E. Maynard Powell served the congregation as pastor for many years and the present pastor is Rev. Cecil King. The church building is undergoing another addition to be finished in the summer of 1975.

— Compiled by Bruce Guilford

Congratulations On Hicksville's 100th Anniversary.
May Your Progress Continue For The Next 100 Years.

Defiance County Commissioners

Gospel Tabernacle

Hicksville Gospel Tabernacle

The first services of the Hicksville Gospel Tabernacle were held January 1, 1934, with Brother Arnold Schliesser in charge. Services were held in the Creamery on High Street until the present site was purchased and the building erected in 1935. The men of the church built the structure with timber from their own woods.

Rev. Clifford Hollifield was in charge of the dedication ceremonies and the first Sunday School Superintendent on record was Ray Cottrell. The by-laws of the Tabernacle were written in the home of Mr. and Mrs. William Piper in 1939.

1943 found the congregation voting to support the OMS Missionary Society. They continue to do this till the present. The society is now called the Oriental Missionary International, Inc.

Also in 1943, some additional by-laws were written. These included laws stating that no one who uses tobacco or takes part in sinful ungodly pursuits can hold a church office.

The parsonage was acquired in 1943 when Mrs. N. A. Regnall, Mr. and Mrs. Guy Boylan and Mr. and Mrs. Royal Timbrook were board members.

Many improvements to the church buildings have taken place over the years. On Palm Sunday, 1975, the congregation burned the note on a loan for a new roof and remodeling.

Ministers who have pastored the local Gospel Tabernacle include: Rev. W. D. Spradling, Bro. John Rohrs, Rev. J. D. Blake, Rev. Hugh Hall, Rev. Robert Hubaker, Rev. Paul Rager, Rev. James Payton, Rev. John Miller, Rev. R. L. Rich, Rev. Clyde Hunter, Rev. Harold Votaw.

— Compiled by Mrs. Homer Nusbaum

Seven Day Adventist

The Hicksville Seventh-Day adventist Church was officially organized June 2, 1894. For some time prior to this, a faithful group of Sabbath keepers had been meeting in various homes and halls to fellowship with like-believers. As was the custom in those days, the services were all-day sessions since travel was by horse and buggy and some came from a distance of from 15 to 20 miles.

The present church building, located at the corner of Fountain Street and Dixon Avenue, was formerly a church building located at Coburn Corners in Indiana. This building was completely dismantled and re-built at its present location, the first meeting being held here was April 6, 1929. Various remodeling programs have taken place from time to time to meet the specific needs. The latest addition was made in 1966.

A church school was conducted here from 1945 to 1949 accommodating students of this denomination in the lower grades.

Down through the years the many ministers, missionaries, doctors, nurses and teachers reflect the early religious teaching received at this church as they have gone into their chosen fields as dedicated workers in Christian service.

The present pastor is Rajkumar Attiken.

— Compiled by Betty Pearson

Hicksville Missionary Church

The Hicksville Missionary Church was started in the home of Wm. Riper in November of 1953, in the form of prayer groups. After meeting regularly for some time, larger quarters were needed, and so on May 2, 1954, an unfinished home in the vicinity of Chicago Avenue and Spencerville Street became the new meeting place. At that time, Rev. John Imler was pastor and Mervin Wilson was Sunday School Superintendent.

Again, a larger meeting area was needed, so a lot was purchased on West High Street. Groundbreaking for the new church was held on September 12, 1954, with approximately 200 persons present. After the "footer" had been put in, the people came to "church" in their work clothes. After having a prayer meeting, they poured the basement floor and worked on it all night. The ladies of the church supplied the meals during the night. The walls were then built and soon a "basement church" existed; the first service being held on February 5, 1955.

Seventh-day Adventist Church

Seventh-day Adventist

Missionary Church

Early weddings of the church were: Shirley Gump and Owen Miller; Bonell Brown and William McKinley; Kathy Lundell and Don Brown, in her home church.

In 1955, Rev. William Harrigan, now a Bible translator on the mission field, became pastor. From 1956 to 1958, Rev. Charles Kauffman was pastor of the church. On September 29, 1957, the main auditorium of the church was dedicated. It was constructed in its entirety with volunteer labor except for laying part of the blocks and brick veneer.

Rev. George Hewitt, an evangelist and missionary, acted as fill-in pastor until he went onto another field. In 1959, Rev. Louis Strahm served as pastor until he was called to serve as pastor among migrants. Rev. J. A. Ringenberg, a pastor for over 50 years, also a former president of the denomination and a missionary, became pastor September 1, 1963. He was pastor for nearly six years. Rev. John Alexander was pastor 1½ years. Rev. David Eicher, a missionary from Sierra Leone was pastor for a term. Rev. Michael Moser is the present pastor. The church has had many gospel teams and revival meetings.

— Compiled by Rev. Michael Moser

Workmen prepare to hoist the Missionary Church steeple to the top of the new building. The church, which was built in 1956, is located on West High Street.

Photo submitted by Don Brown

Church of the Nazarene

The Hicksville Church of the Nazarene had its beginnings in the hearts of a few people who desired a Church of the Nazarene in the community to preach this doctrine.

They started having prayer meetings in their homes and on November 25, 1962, they had their first Sunday School and Preaching service in the Hicksville Building and Loan building. The pastor in the beginning was Rev. Mrs. Melvin Morehead.

On December 23, 1962, this group moved into the Grange Hall, formerly the Lutheran Church.

On April 7, 1963, while in a revival with Rev. Harley, the church was organized with 22 charter members and Rev. Carl Clendenen, the District Superintendent, presiding.

With the help of the District Advisory Board, the present parsonage and land was acquired, and plans for the building of a church building were begun. The plans were drawn and the contract released to the Hanna Construction Co. of Bryan.

The ground breaking service was held on October 10, 1965, and the building started a short time later. It was completed in March of 1966 and the first service was held in the new building March 20, 1966. The Official Dedication Service of the new building was held on September 11, 1966, with Rev. Carl Clendenen giving the dedicatory address.

Two young men, James Mendenhall and Jerry Renfrow, have been granted a Local Preachers License from the church. This is the first step in being a minister in the Church.

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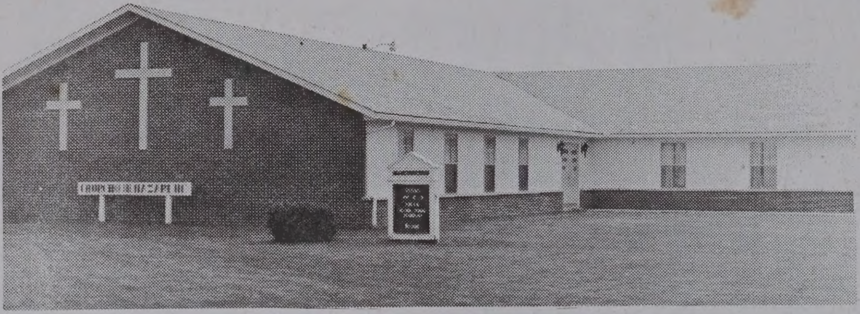


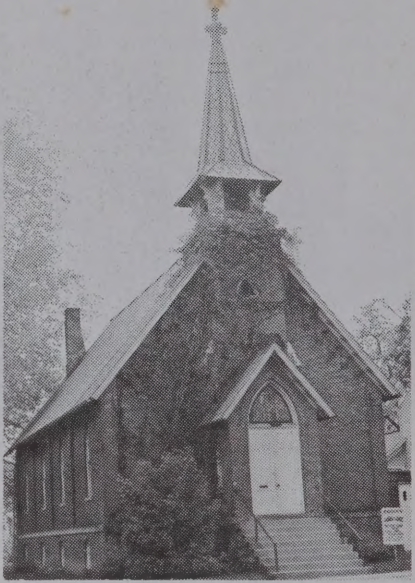
Church of the Nazarene

In April 1973, the church celebrated its tenth anniversary of organization with a special service under the direction of Pastor Al Dotson. All former pastors were honored with a plaque of faithful service.

The church has been served by the following pastors. Rev. Mrs. Melvin Morehead, who is now retired in Paulding, Rev. Richard B. Miles, who is now semi-retired in Fort Wayne, Rev. Sidney Mays, who is now pastoring in Virginia, Rev. James Wolford, who is now pastoring in Spencerville, Ohio and Rev. Alva Dotson, who is now pastoring in Lithopolis, Ohio. The present pastor is Rev. Duane Snavely.

The Church now stands with an active membership of 41 and a Sunday School Roll of 141. It averaged 65 in Sunday School each Sunday last year.

— Compiled by Rev. Duane Snavely



Standing on the corners of Smith and Maple Streets is the Church of Christ, the building which originally housed the St. Johns Lutheran Church. They are presently led by Rolland Fritz.

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INCORPORATION DATE – March 8, 1974

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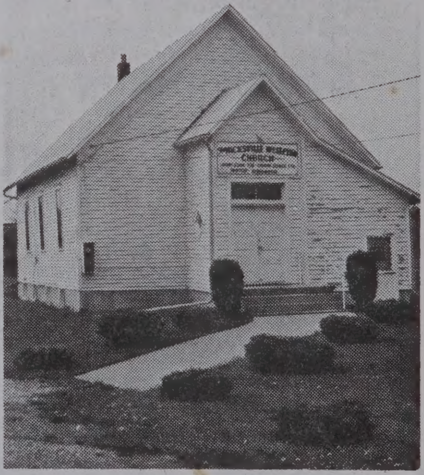

Walter Hicks serves as pastor for the congregation of the Hicksville Weslyan Church. It is located on Defiance Avenue in Hicksville.

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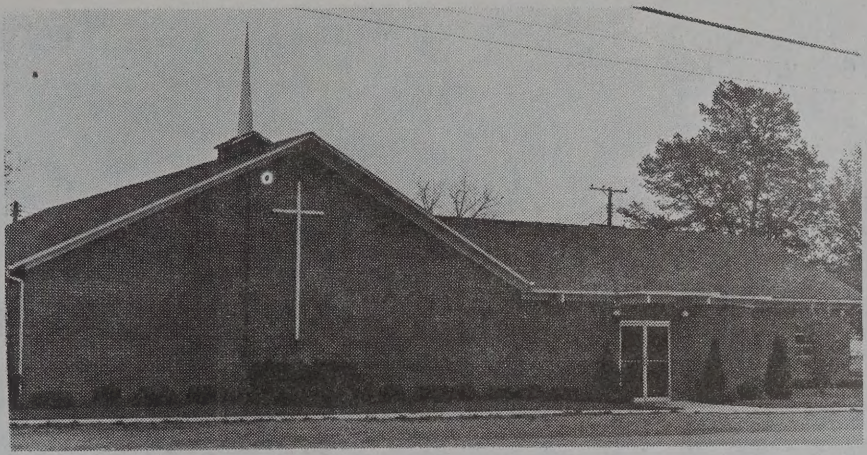
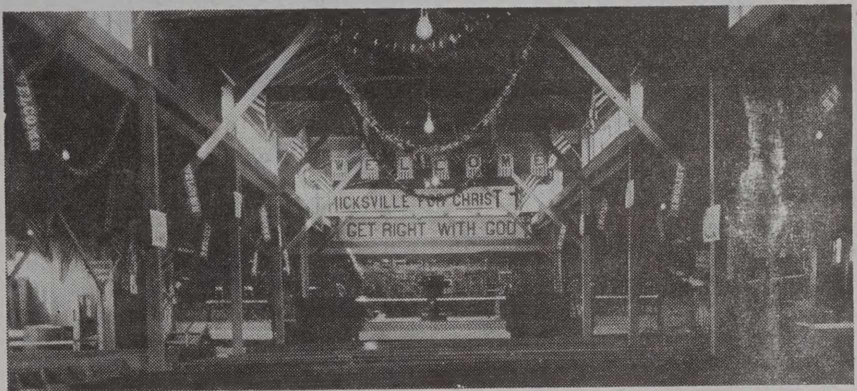
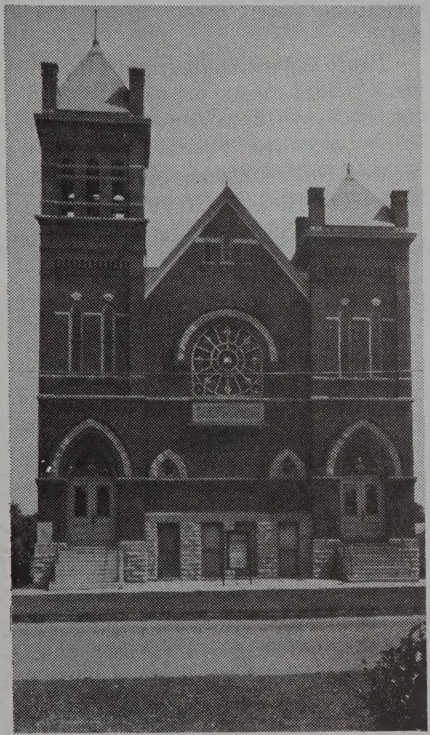


The Hicksville Assembly of God Congregation meets weekly in this modern building located at the corners of Fountain and Dixon Streets. Rev. Robert Proy serves as their pastor.



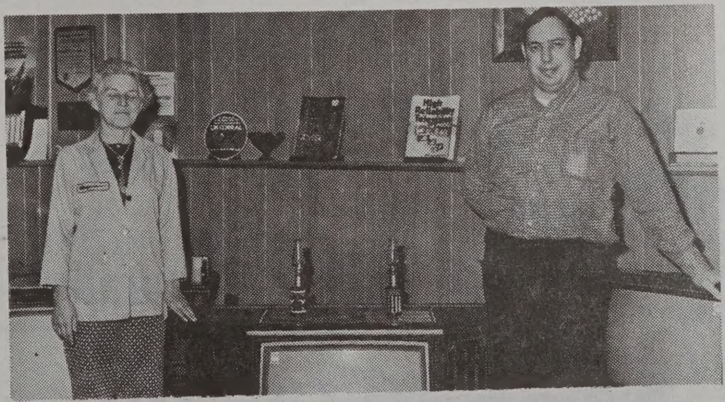
In the early twentieth century the building behind the Trinity United Methodist Church housed the Hicksville Tabernacle. Not much is known concerning this church group, however, the author feels this photo depicts the church ready for special services.

Photo submitted by Ralph C. Battershell



In 1899, this red brick building was constructed to house the Grace Methodist congregation. The present Grace United Methodist church now stands at the same location on West High Street where this was destroyed by fire in 1940.

Photo submitted by Harold Mohr



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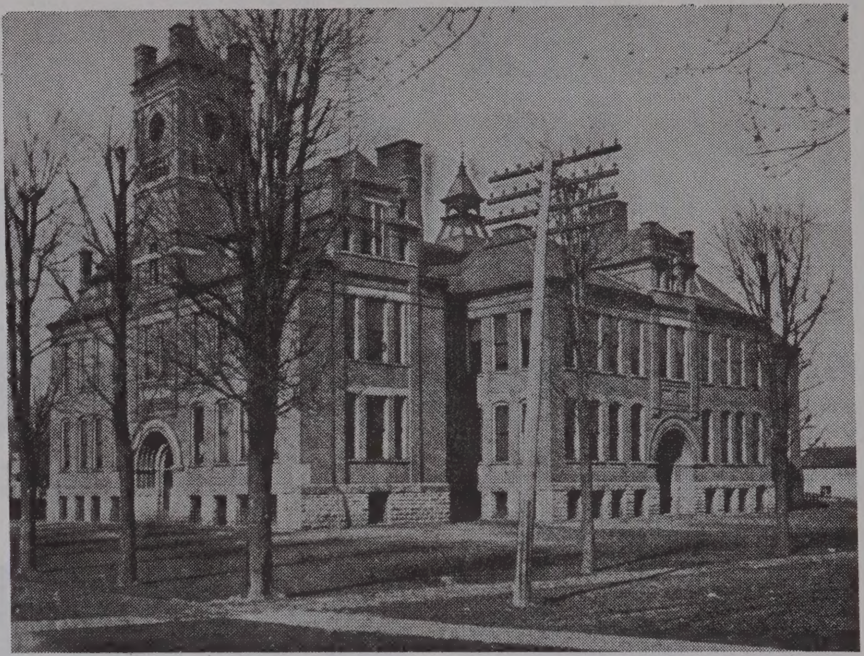
Hicksville Exempted Village Schools



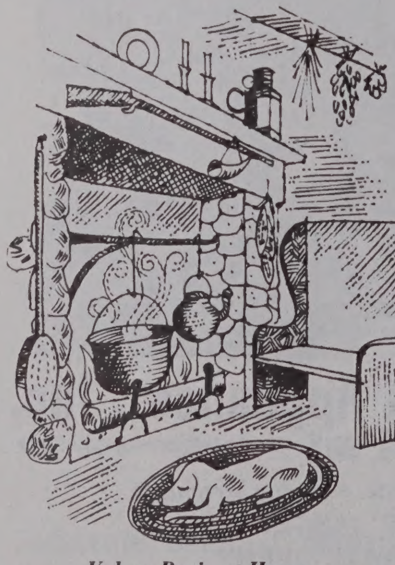
Razed in 1959 this 2 story brick schoolhouse was the center of local learning for 63 years. It stood at the corners of Main and Smith Streets where the present High School parking lot is located.

Photo submitted by Kermit Agler

Ohio was one of the first states in the United States to include in their original constitution a provision for free public education for its children. In the original constitution when the state was divided into counties and townships approximately one sixteenth of the land was set apart to be used to finance the public education. Different counties and sections of the state met this requirement in various ways. Some sublet the land but productivity did not prove too remunerative and certainly not staple; other counties sold the land and invested the monies while others declared a minimum educational real estate tax for school purposes equivalent to the value of the land set aside for financing their public education. Certain state standards were set for this education and the development was left pretty much to the responsibility of our forefathers.

Hicksville Exempted Village School District was originally two school districts; namely, Hicksville Township and Hicksville Village Schools. Hicksville Township originally consisted of nine one room school districts, presided over by a Township Board of Education, whose duty it was to see that these nine schools met the requirements provided by the state and county and also distributed the educational taxes collected for this purpose as contracted and required by law. Each of these schools roughly served the children in a four square mile area and were identified by number and their location, or the name of some of the prominent families living in the area; namely No. 1 Six Corners School, No. 3 Hart School, No. 5 Rodocker School and No. 6 Hook or Hickory Grove School.

The township schools were all one room schools located on an acre of ground near the center of each district and presided over by one teacher who served as teacher, janitor, playground supervisor, school nurse, disciplinarian, librarian and any other director of problems that may come up in the course of the days work. Most of these teachers met the teachers requirement by having graduated from a first class (four year) High School Course and passing a county examination supervised by a group of County School Examiners. It was not uncommon to find twenty-five to fourty pupils in the eight grades attending these schools. Parents considered it a privilege and duty to see that their children were in school and furnished their text books, supplies, lunches, play ground equipment and transportation. Many children walked between two and three miles each way to and from school and thought nothing about it. Familiar equipment in these schools were single and double seats some smaller than others, a cast iron heating stove near the center of the room, some had heat reflecting shields; corner cupboards for the dinner buckets and coat hooks for the wraps at the back of the room; recitation benches across the



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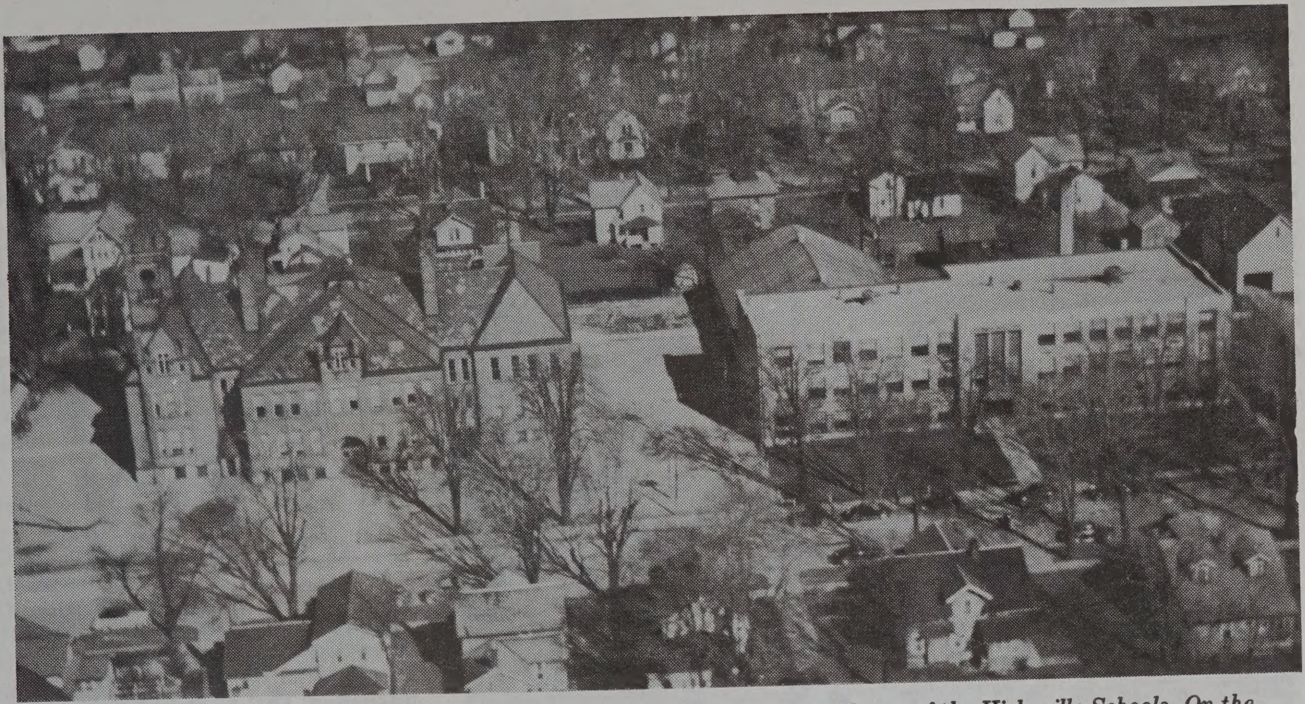

In this aerial photo, taken by W. T. McCalla in 1945, one can see the old and new of the Hicksville Schools. On the left, the old high school building and on the right, the present High School which was constructed in 1939. John Schortgen piloted the plane for the picture. *Photo submitted by F. T. McCalla*

front of the room so arranged that the teacher always faced her class and class room; usually an organ on one side and a book cupboard for library books on the other; a teachers desk and chair at center front; and across the front wall were slate blackboards with foot benches under these so the smaller children could reach the black boards. Light came through four or five large tall windows arranged in a row on opposite sides of the building. One of the important community duties of the teacher was ringing the school bell and this was quite exact as it was used by many community families as the correct time. The State required eight months of school be offered each year and most township schools were just in session eight months so the older children would be available for home work spring and fall. It was not uncommon for some of the older boys to only go to school during the winter months, some schools were set up for three terms; fall, winter and spring.

A few names may be mentioned that identified some of the township teachers that served over a period of time; O. P. Bevington acted as superintendent a number of years visiting each school periodically, Orris Rodocker, Stella Peacock, Bertha Deardorf, Elsie Cole, Loyd Edgar, Amy Layman, Laird Hoff and Don Evans, just to mention a few.

Township schools only offered eight grades but would pay the tuition to any High School if they would accept the pupil. Passing the Boxwell and later the Patterson examination was an early requirement. These tests were under County Examiners and usually given at a central point. Pupils going to high school had to furnish their own books, supplies and transportation and many only went till they satisfied the sixteen year age limit. Many pupils came from surrounding townships, which did not have a high school.

The Hicksville Village Schools were always located at the corner of Main and Smith Streets and this same location with a few lot additions has been the home of at least three different buildings. The first building was a T shaped two story brick school

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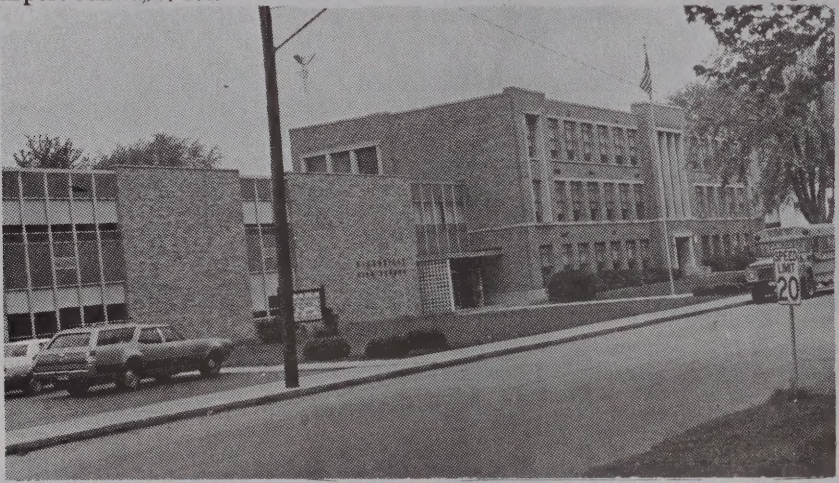
which was outgrown (overflows had to be housed in various available places around town) and replaced in 1896 by the old building remembered by most older people around Hicksville until it was wrecked in 1959. The "old building" was constructed by Wesley Johnson, father of Carma Johnson Rowe, and was the forerunner of what later became the Johnson Construction Company, well known throughout Ohio for concrete work such as roads, airport runways, etc.



The present day Hicksville High School has two additions to the original building which is shown at right, the newest being the junior high wing which is pictured above at left.

This building was remodeled many times during its sixty plus years to increase the growing space needed for the school population. No electricity or form of artificial lighting was in the original building, no plumbing and it was heated by a hot air furnace on each corner and there was a basement fuel room for each furnace and also a chimney. The original school bell from the old building is mounted as a memorial on the corner of the original school lot. Laird Hoff thinks this was the bell from the first school building the ring from which was familiar to all residents in the area and especially told the mothers and housewives how soon the children would be home for lunch or how much time they had left to get to school. What pupil has ever gone to the school in the old building who wasn't tempted, boy or girl, to pull on that old bell rope or watched Lloyd Coon or Pete Krontz stand with syncronized watch in hand so the bell was on exact time.

The present high school building was moved into in 1939 and has had two additions made to the original construction. The grade school was moved to the new grade building at the corner of North Bryan and Arthur Street in 1956 and has had additional space added to its original structure. An athletic field has been developed in conjunction with the Hicksville Park Board just north of the grade building and consists of play grounds, swimming pool, both football and baseball fields and tennis courts.

In the late '30's the Hicksville School district population was large enough to be eligible for an exempted village classification; this meant the school superintendent was accountable directly to the State for the qualification of his school, teachers, plant, budget, etc. It was thought this would be some financial saving to the system, it was voted on by the district, passed and from then on has been known as the Hicksville Exempted Village School District.

The Hicksville Community has been blessed with a school system which has always strived to keep a good standard for the education in this area. Many graduates have done well in the fields of higher education, government, business and professions and wish the same for the future of our educational system.

— Compiled by Esther Howenstien

Music In The Schools

Music was first introduced into the Hicksville School system in 1922 when Mrs. Marie Keller was the music instructor. That year glee clubs were organized and the first concert was given in the Huber Opera House on April 20, 1923.

In 1924, an orchestra of eleven members was started. The first operetta to fill the night air was "The Windmills of Holland", presented in 1927 and directed by Lola Bevington.

It was the custom for the glee clubs to give a concert during the first semester and a variety show during the second half of the year. One such variety show was entitled "The Roof Garden Revue" which was comprised of solos from the popular songs of the year, a master of ceremonies, four comedians and a chorus and dancers.

The first band was organized by Mrs. Jolitta Watters. In 1936, a marching band appeared under the direction of Mr. Karl Kooistra. The schools have had many instructors in the art of making fine vocal and instrumental music. The list includes Kathleen Hart, Eva Miller, Marie Snyder, Fern Siebold, Edna Koch, Mrs. Hazel Greer, Carl Jimmerman, Jack Tongring, Donald Agno, Paul Smith, Louise Driever, Mr. Biler, Phillip Samuelson, Marianne Garnes, Mary Sue Robinson, Diane Imes, Mary Jane Coon, Keith Payne, Mrs. Gatewood, Ron Jinks, Peter Bottomly and Larry Dull.

Hicksville school musicians have brought many high awards home from district contests. Many students have been chosen to participate in the All State Band and the All Ohio Choir. Concerts, variety shows and musical productions presented by the schools have added to the social events of the Hicksville community for many years.

— Compiled by Mrs. Marie Keller

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Jaycees

Jaycees is an organization of young men between the ages of 18 and 36, being organized on a local, state, national and international level. The Ohio Jaycees, at the time of this writing, has 15,000 members and the United States Jaycees over 300,000 men. The primary purpose of Jaycees if twofold: 1) to build a better man through character development and leadership training, 2) to provide community service of the caliber capable of an excited group of young men.

The organization of the Hicksville Jaycees began in the summer of 1968 by Doug Doeden and Ed McCalla. Dick Buttermore, President of the Defiance Jaycees and Walt Humes, District Vice President of the Ohio Jaycees helped extend the Hicksville chapter. The numbers soon multiplied as the other young men of Hicksville became interested in the organization.

After signing the required 25 members, By-Laws were written, officers elected, state and H. S. Jaycee applications made, supplies purchased and projects planned.

Charter night banquet was held March 22, 1969, at St. Michael's Recreation Hall in Hicksville, with a proud group of 36 charter members. Representative Delbert Latta, O. Devere Line (past president of Ohio Jaycees), Mayor Edith Harkey, Defiance Jaycees and local dignitaries were present for the proud occasion. Local officers that first year were: president, Ed McCalla; internal vice president, Doug Doeden; external vice president, David Butler; secretary, Fritz Kuhn; treasurer, Robert Mullett; directors, Gary Brown, Dan Jinkins and Leonard Siebenaler.

Early projects were the low-budget variety. Trash barrels were decoratively painted and placed on city streets and at the community park. An attractive parking lot sign was made and installed by the Huber Theater. Car washes boosted the chapter treasury. Members donated 150 man-hours to Community Memorial Hospital to repaint the rooms and halls. Christmas trees were cut and transported to Hicksville, sold and then picked-up after the holidays for the "Burning of the Greens."

Meetings were originally held in city council chambers until space was rented in the basement of the American Building. Many man-hours were devoted to cleaning, painting and renovating the new quarters into our "Jaycee Hall."

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The Jaycees Creed and Motto now grace the new Jaycee Hall which is located above Handy's Recreation on East High Street.

Over the years 1968-1975, the Hicksville Jaycees have been involved in too many activities to give complete listings. The membership has worked heavily in youth activities such as Punt, Pass and Kick, Daisy B-B Gun Clinic, Easter Egg Hunts and Safety and Drug-abuse programs through the schools. An ambulance was purchased for the Rescue Squad. Ways and means projects grew in size and success, including Frontier Rodeo in 1974, and Hawaii-5-O drawing and banquet in 1975. Membership as of May 1975 is a proud 70 young men.

The development of these young men through leadership training and personal development is not transferable to the pages of history, but many have grown into better men and community leaders with activation from the Jaycees.

Presidents — Hicksville Jaycees: 1968-69 Ed D. McCalla; 1969-70 Gary E. Brown; 1970-71 Larry L. Tomlinson; 1971-72 Fritz B. Kuhn; 1972-73 David L. Butler; 1973-74 T. Michael Duffey; 1974-75 Tom K. Metz; 1975-76 Terry J. Brown.

— Compiled by David Butler

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Chamber of Commerce

In 1919, the more enterprising and far-seeing merchants and businessmen of Hicksville met and organized the Hicksville Chamber of Commerce. The need for the organization at that time is illustrated in the following quote taken from the booklet "Hicksville Today", written in the early 1900's.

"During the early years of Hicksville's life the 'general store' held sway. These firms sold their customers everything they needed, over one counter. The great growth of the Eighties and Nineties; the rising prosperity of the town and nation brought changes. The old one store type of business gave way and was supplanted by the competitive system. There were many dry goods companies, groceries, jewelry stores, shoes, clothing and restaurants — all doing business merely to benefit themselves and often times their pocket book solely. The general public was secondary; their real good was not always given the first consideration. These were the days of bargain sales, two-price articles, "dickering", and driving hard bargains. Due to this system the town lost valuable business. Several fine business enterprises which would have grown into large industries passed Hicksville up for other places where they might receive more help in their beginning."

And so merchants who really had the interest of the town of Hicksville and the surrounding community at heart decided to organize, believing that individually and collectively they could render better service to the customer by organizing.

The early Chamber of Commerce was instrumental in bringing general fair play and the one-price-to-all plan into practice. They also branched out into an aggressive campaign for better roads within the town, county and even more distant parts of the state. The C. of C's case presented to the rialroad authorities brought better B & O service to Hicksville. A branch of the Bowser Co. of Fort Wayne opened a plant in Hicksville which gave a steady job to returned war veterans at a time when prices were reaching a peak and employment was scarce.

Early presidents were Grover Maxwell, Dr. Gauld and J. O. Longsworth. Warren Blakeslee served as secretary for more than one term.

Present officers include Mrs. Dorothy Meek, Donn Snell and Mrs. Nelda C. Watts. Directors are Don Brown, Darlene Martin, Roxanne Volkert, Mary Connors, Donn Snell and Dorothy Meek.

— Compiled by Nelda Watts

1974-75 officers for the Rachel Chapter are, left to right, Mrs. Millard (Diane) Ensign, secretary; Mrs. Edward (Gloria) Lyons, treasurer; Mrs. John (Nancy) Smith, vice-president; Mrs. Dallas (Sally) Dewey, president.

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Rachel Chapter, Ohio Child Conservation League

The Rachel Chapter Ohio Child Conservation League originally the "Cradle to College Chapter, was organized in January 1960. There were eleven charter members. Presently there are fifteen active members.

Past presidents include: Janus Tuttle 1960-1962; Leona Neidhardt 1962-1964; Janus Meyer 1964-1966; Barbara Leonard 1966-1968; Janus Tuttle 1968-1969; Janice Kline 1969-1971; Cindy Carr 1971-1972; Mary Lou Durre 1972-1974; Sally Dewey 1974-1976.

The purpose of this organization shall be to make more worthy and effective the relationship of parents and children in the home and in the community.

— Compiled by Mrs. Larry Tomlinson

Rotary Club

At 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, June 21, 1938, the "old" Hicksville gymnasium that had recently been constructed, was the secne of the Charter Presentation Meeting of the Hicksville Rotary Club, sponsored by the Rotary Club of Defiance. Charter members who had been approached, urged and infused with enthusiasms by George D. Simmons chose him as their first president; Wayne M. Smith as vice-president; Robert S. Longsworth, secretary; Herbert A. Ginther, treasurer; and Robert B. Hiscox, sergeant-at-arms. Of the original charter members, six are still living and two, Robert Longsworth and Joe Morton, are still active Rotarians.

Under the creed of "Service Above Self," the local Rotary chapter has, during its thirty-seven years of duration, been responsible for many projects including the State Roadside park on Route 2, Boy Scout patronage, College Scholarships and Loans, sent students annually to Boys' State and Girls State, the World Affairs Institute, has entertained and aided the Crippled Children, helped supply the Community Hospital and has sponsored a Little League Team for more than twenty years and underwritten the Village Players.

For several years the club met at noon at Lantz's Restaurant, and since 1948 until the present, the meetings have been held in the Fellowship Hall of the Grace United Methodist Church. Members have attended innumerable District meetings and a few International Conventions. Weekly meetings have been entertained and enlightened by a great diversity of programs; bi-annual Rotary-Ann banquets are invariably well attended, and Rotary has indeed become a vital, driving force in the community. The Silver Anniversary year of 1963 was presided over by Roland Doeden, who, in 1970-71, served as the District Governor, the only member, thus far, to be elected to that office.

Hicksville Rotary has, in its turn, sponsored the creation of clubs in Edgerton and, a short time ago, in Antwerp. Thirty-nine men from all walks of life have served Hicksville Rotary as President.

— Compiled by Robert Longsworth

Hicksville Grange

Few people today realize the debt they owe the farmers for the part they played in building this nation. Land grants and the urge for new homes started an endless stream of farmers into the wilderness in a march stopped only by the waters of the Pacific Ocean.

After the Civil War and the return of the soldiers to civilian life, exhaustion and discouragement was found everywhere. Farms had been neglected during the four years of war. In addition, the farmers were being crushed by transportation costs, market depression and the growth of railroad monopolies.

Into this picture came the Grange which stressed organization, education and legislation as a remedy for farm problems. In little more than a year, it covered the country from New York to California and from Minnesota to Missouri.

The Grange was instrumental in the formation of the Interstate Commerce Commission in 1887, and in getting rural mail delivery and rural electrification.

On March 2, 1870, the first Grange was organized in Ohio. By 1960, there were nearly 190,000 members in Ohio.

The Hicksville Township Grange was organized in 1930. Two of the original charter members are still living and very active in community affairs. They are Juanita Volkert and Ivan Ridenour, who was 90 years old April 12, 1975.

The original meeting room was above the bakery which is now the Thriftway Store. Their next meeting place was what is now occupied by the Hicksville Jaycees. Later, they met in the Old School. In 1957, they purchased the old Lutheran Church on the corner of N. Maple and E. Smith.

The Grange was famous for their socials and meals. Their first social was held in front of the old hotel which stood where the Hicksville Bank now stands. They served meals for the Alumni Banquets, Rotary, Lions, BPW and other civic organizations.

One of the reasons for the Grange being an attractive organization is their insurance. The Grange Mutual Casualty Co. Insurance was, until a few years ago, available only to Grange members. It was less costly than any other insurance.

Masters of the Hicksville Grange were: Charles Poole, Mervin Applegate, Alvin Durfey, Elmer Hickman, Clarence Huntsinger, Robert Scott, Orlan Lobdell, Wayne Gustenslager, Roy Thomas, Glen Lobdell, Ivan Ridenour and Dennis Guilford.

— Compiled by Dennis Guilford

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Serving on the present Hicksville Police Department are left to right, kneeling, Sgt. Robert Stotler, Sr.; Norman Cottrell, Chief of Police. Second row, John Handy, Mike Brown, Helen Fulmer, Bill Handy. Third row, Lee Conkey, Gene Cottrell, Joe Stotler, Dave Russell and Bill Mock.

Police Department protecting Hicksville since 1890's

Police Department

Hicksville's first town marshall was Enos Rath, who was assisted by nightman Bill Saylor. At that time the police department was a foot patrol.

During the late 1800's and until 1920, a curfew was enforced in the little village. The night man, Bill Saylor, was in charge of ringing the fire house bell at 8:00 p.m. in the winter and 9:00 p.m. during the summer months. All the town's young people were expected to be off the streets and safe at home when the bell rang.

Marshall Rath was murdered and Hal Miller took the office. He was followed by Delta Driver who served from 1918 to 1940. Marshall Driver's modes of transportation included a horse and buggy and a bicycle. He later used his personal car, a 1915 Ford.

Robert Lower was Marshall for 2 years, 1940 to 1942. Fordyce K. McCurdy followed him until his death in 1973, serving 31 years as police chief. Norman Cottrell is the present chief of police.

At one time the job of marshall was an elected office paying $26.25 per month. Early marshalls also held the position of Street Commissioner, since they had to have both jobs to make a living.

In the late 1920's, in the era of Prohibition, several truck-loads of beer and car-loads of whiskey were confiscated. The prohibited spirits were consequently poured down the drain.

Shortly after 1:00 p.m. on April 18, 1933, the First National Bank of Hicksville was robbed by Merritt Robert Longbrake.

Others who have served on the Village law enforcement department are Jack Blalock, Clarence "Doc" Rodocker, Bill Brown, Ray Arants, Homer Connor, Joe Rhodes, Allen Poper, Mr. Skinner, Dale Wort and Richard Savage.

Today's 13-member force includes, Chief of Police Norman Cottrell, Sgt. Robert Stotler, Sr., Helen Fulmer, John Handy, Ivan Van Horn, Wm. C. Handy, David Russell, Michael Brown, Lee Conkey, William Mock, Gene Cottrell and Joe Stotler. (Mrs. Marcella Scott is meter maid.)

Our modern day Hicksville Police Department has sophisticated equipment including a breathalyzer, a radar unit and a radio dispatcher system.

The patrol fleet features at least two on duty officers and cars twenty-four hours a day.

Compiled by Robert Stotler Sr.

The Village Players

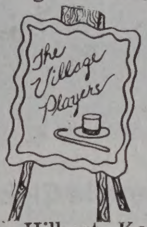
The Village Players of Hicksville, Ohio, is the result of a dream that Alice Longsworth had. Talk about organizing a little theater group began in November of 1973 and incorporation of the Village Players occurred March 8, 1974. The first production was Meredith Wilson's "The Music Man." It was done in the gymnasium of the Hicksville High School with 120 people in the cast. Three performances were given to capacity audiences. Two one-act plays, "The Still Alarm" and "Trysting Place", and a melodrama monologue were presented in the Fellowship Room of the St. John Lutheran Church in August of 1974.

In March, 1975, Wilder's "Our Town" was presented in the gymnasium of the grade school.

A Centennial Pageant, written and created by Virlynn Rex, Lyn Shepard, Alice Longsworth, Frank Daugherty, Lyndall Coulter and Alice Doeden, will be presented during Centennial days. Agatha Christie's "Mouse Trap" will be given in October and "The Bird's Christmas Carol" and "Amahl and the Night Visitors" are planned for December.

The original board members were: Jack Staehle, president; Alice Doeden, Vice President, Virlynn Rex, Secretary; Jim Gerken, Treasurer; Ray Hook; Elowene Hinsch; Alice Longsworth; Weldon Greutman and Mary Repp.

Patron members: Armstrong Insurance Agency, Dr. and Mrs. William S. Bricker, "Bud" Laub Chevrolet-Oldsmobile, Inc., Mr. and Mrs. Gordon Buehrig, Mrs. William A. Coulter, Dr. Robert L. Craig, Mr. and Mrs. Wendell P. Culler, Dietrich Industries, Inc., Mr. and Mrs. Gerald D. Doeden, DOTCO, INC. (2), Ewing Nursery, Mr. and Mrs. Don Ford, Harkey's Restaurant, Haver's Village Furniture, The Hicksville Bank, The Hicksville Building Loan and Savings Co., Hicksville Business and Professional Womens Club, Hicksville Pharmacy, Hicksville Rotary Club, Hi-Lanes Bowling and Dairy Bar, Dr. and Mrs. Allen Hilbert, Kallsen Midwest, Ins., Steve Kares, Dr. and Mrs. Paul B. Kerr, II, Kreg Insurance Agency, Mr. and Mrs. Robert L. Longsworth, Helen and Rachel May, Mr. and Mrs. F. T. McCalla, Perkins-Reeb-Weber Funeral Home, Dr. R. L. Ramus, Roan's Laundries, Carma J. Rowe, Mrs. Anita Schilb, Mr. and Mrs. Walter Smith, Trident Corp., Village Realtors - Corrine Hurni.



Regular members: Cecelia Brown, Ann Cook, Ron Cottrell, Keith Countryman, Lloyd Countryman, Edith Durre, Janet Durre, Jane Ewing, James Gerken, Len Gordon, Phyllis Gunderman, Edna Hirzel, Helen Hursey, Jean Kares, Steve Kares, Bridget Kemerer, Steve J. Kondas, Jean Kuhl, Richard Mackling, Steve Middleton, Julie Peter, Anna M. Poper, Virlynn Rex, Alice Roan, Marilyn Roe, Sally Sanders, Ila Rose Shough, Leslie L. Smith, Edith Spitler, Donna Sweeney, Joel Taylor, Lura Thiel, Jim J. Volkert, Roxanna Volkert, Lila L. Wittig, Linda L. Wittig, Lewis L. Wonderly, Mr. and Mrs. Glenn Bauer (Cathy and Ronnie), Mr. and Mrs. Dale Dreher (Brent and Kirk Sholl), Mr. and Mrs. Jim Giesey (Glenn, Jeff and Karen) Mr. and Mrs. Weldon Greutman (Alice, Betsy, Paul, Timothy and Tony), Mr. and Mrs. Ray Hook (Beth and Jeff) Mr. and Mrs. John Leonard (David and Stephanie) Mrs. Ronnie Shipman (Robin and Stephanie Jo), Mr. and Mrs. Jack Staehle (Lisa and Mark) Mr. and Mrs. Ron Vanderstelt (Eric, Rodney and Vickie) Mr. and Mrs. Bernie Whonsetler (Janet, Paula, Susan, Mary Lou and Craig), Charles and Wanda Bradford, Elaine and Jerry Bruns, Frank and Kathleen Daugherty, Alice and Gerry Doeden, Ethel and Roland Doeden, Glen and Bea Elder, Elowene and Bill Hinsch, Lorene and Normand Jones, Nina and Paul King, Christina and Joyce Koch, Richard and Ruth Laub, Alice and Bob Longsworth, Carole and Max McDonald, George Middleton, Herb and Mary Repp, Layel and Nan Ridenour, Lynn and William Shepard, Donna and Jim Volkert, Helen and Jay Volkert and Bob and Marlene Volkert.

— Compiled by Mrs. Gerald Doeden

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Hicksville Masonic Lodge #478 F & AM

Ulysses S. Grant was president of the United States when the Hicksville Lodge was chartered in 1874. At that time there were 37 states in the Union.

The Hicksville Lodge was sponsored by the Antwerp Lodge. There were 15 charter members, 11 from the Antwerp Lodge, 3 from the Edgerton Lodge and 1 from Wm. Hacker Lodge, Newville, Ind.

There is no record of the first location of the Lodge, but in 1881 a new Lodge Hall was dedicated at 104 E. High Street above what is now the east half of the Thriftway Store. In 1902, the Lodge moved to the south side of High Street at Maple Street. In 1915, they moved to a new hall in the American Building and in 1939 they dedicated a new hall at 116½ E. High where the lodge is still located.

The Hicksville Lodge celebrated their 100th Anniversary on April 25, 1974, with a Reconsecration service at the hall and a banquet at the grade school with approximately 275 members and wives present.

Some interested items from the minutes are: 1886 - Paulding Lodge requested us to help in laying the cornerstone of the courthouse. January 1889 - A banquet was held costing 50 cents per plate. The Swilley House was paid for 49 plates, the Merchant Hotel for 52 plates. 1903 - A bill for $18.00 to the Hicksville Electric Light Co. for lights from April 1902 to April 1903 was paid. May 1906 - Part of the bill for a supper - 12 quarts milk, 72 cents; 8 pints of cream, 96 cents; cigars, $2.31. There were always cigars listed at their dinners. May 1909. Along with the expense for a banquet are listed 11 horse feeds, $2.75 and a different stable, 2 horse feeds 50 cents.

Masons of the Hicksville Lodge who have been specially honored are J. L. Bevington, Mervin H. Bevington, F. B. Gorrell served as District Deputy Grand Master of the 5th district, Junior Grand Deacon of the Grand Lodge F&AM of Ohio and 33rd degree Mason Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite. J. Ray Schilb received Meritorious Service Award by Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite and a Past Potentate of Zenobia Shrine.

Dr. Claude G. Hitt, Dwight Burlingame and Alvin Miles attained the rank of Knight of the York Cross of Honor.

A Mason's wife, Sister Marguerite Hale was Past Grand Matron of the Grand Chapter of Ohio Order of Eastern Stars.

— Compiled by Alvin Miles

Rosedale Club

Rosedale Club, a farm women's club, was organized January 7, 1921, under the direction of Mrs. Minnie Bricker. The first meeting was held at the home of Grace Poth and the following officers were elected: Mrs. Jessie Kemerer, president, Mrs. Ivan Ridenour, vice-president, Mrs. Grace Poth, secretary, Miss Alma Olson, reporter. The charter members were: Mrs. Fred Spindler, Mrs. Clark Walters, Mrs. George Whitman, Mrs. Nick Walters, Mrs. Elmer Kemerer, Mrs. Ivan Ridenour, Mrs. Charles Olson, Mrs. George Poth, Mrs. Dick Arrowsmith, Mrs. Olive Blosser, Miss Dorothy Poth, Miss Helen Arrowsmith, Miss Mildred Mann, Mrs. John Mann, Mrs. Melvin Hanville, Mrs. Bruce Kline, Mrs. Nelius Townsend, Mrs. Lu Lucas, Mrs. Sherd Dowel, Mrs. Ebb Donnel. Of this number only Sylvia Townsend and Alma Goodwin are still members. The Club Creed was "For the betterment of our homes, ourselves and our community." In the early years, meetings were held in a rural school house on Jerico Road. Later they were held in the homes. The Club met the first Thursday in the month and lessons were given toughing on various subjects. Parties were held for the families several times a year.

The Club has decorated a booth at the Hicksville Fair a great many years, taking first place several times. They have contributed to the Red Cross, Cancer Fund, Crippled Children, March of Dimes, T. B. Fund, the Hospital, the Nursing Home, helped neighbors in need and all in all have been a help to the rural community.

Rosedale Club is a member of the Defiance County Farm Women's Federation. The present officers are Evelyn Slattery, president, Hazel Whitman, vice-president, Wandus Babcock, secretary.

— Compiled by Mrs. Hazel Whitman

Hicksville Eagles

The origin of the Fraternal Order of Eagles, Hicksville AERIE #2556 dates back to October 15, 1946, when they were granted a charter by the Grand AERIE.

The local group began with a roster of 140 members and now boasts a membership of 585. Alvin Durfey was the first worthy president. A plaque with all the names of past worthy Presidents hangs in the Eagles Anteroom.

Some of the first meeting places were the fairgrounds and the Yellowstone Annex. The first hall was above the Fetzer's Bakery and Hofner Drug Store on the corner of High and Main Street. On October 6, 1954, the members voted to have a committee purchase the old Clemmer and Johnson Cement Block Factory on East Edgerton Street which the members later re-built.

The Ladies Auxiliary was formed

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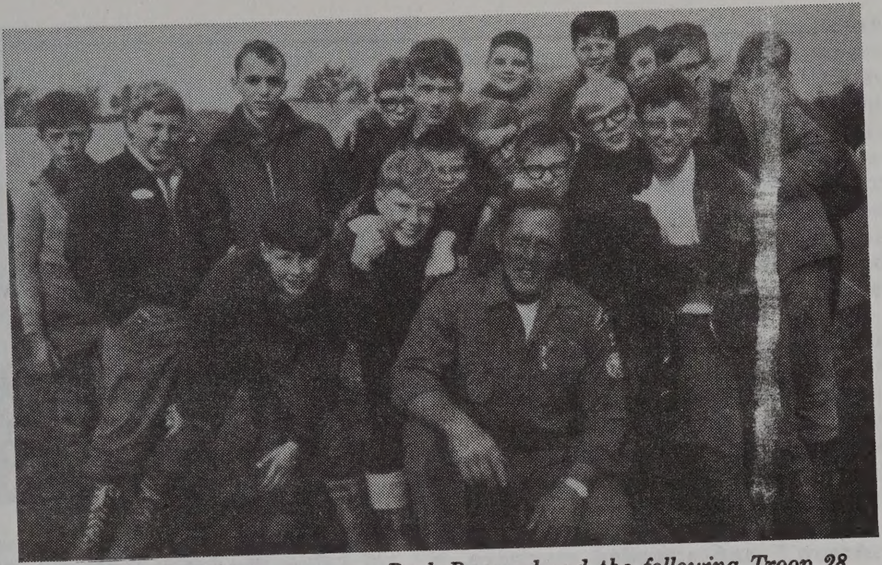
October 1951, with 54 members and Dorothy Wright as the first president. Today there are 200 members.

Donations are made by the Eagles to the Durante, Cancer, Heart, Crippled Children and March of Dime Funds. There are also contributions made to the Hicksville Athletic Boosters. The local Eagles sponsor a childrens Christmas Party for all children of the area and visit the Childrens Home at Defiance, Ohio. They, along with the Ladies group, call on the senior citizens with gifts and fruit baskets at Christmas.

The Eagles also sponsor a Little League Baseball team and Cub Scouts and Webeloes.

— Compiled by Leland "Ike" Savage



In the fall of 1967 Scoutmaster Buck Bungard and the following Troop 28 Scouts traveled to Camp Lakota in Defiance for their annual Camporee. Front row, left to right, Keith Yontz, Kirk Savage, Ron Phillips, Greg Headley, Michael Hinsch, Keven Farley and Allan Pearson. Back row, Stanley Rowan, Jim Battershell Jr., Tim Haven, Jeff Andrews, David Miller, Steve Meyers, Kent Yontz, David Rowan, Michael Phillips and Mark Leavell.

Photo submitted by Harold Bungard

Boy Scout Troop 28

Scouting in Hicksville has been active helping boys for 59 years. It is definitely known that our fellow townsman, Dr. R. E. Tuttle formed the first troop in Hicksville about 1916 and acted as its leader until 1920. The leadership was then assumed by a teacher by the name of Waters. Mr. Waters was only here for about a year when another teacher by the name of Randolph, took over the troop until about 1923. From 1923 until 1930, for want of a leader and sponsor we were without a Scout Troop in the community. In 1930, Edward Smart Post 223 of the American Legion was asked by the Toledo Scout office to sponsor a Scout Troop here, which was to be called Troop 28.

After some consideration, Dr. Claud Hitt, agreed to act as leader. He continued until 1938, when for business reasons he was forced to resign. He was succeeded by Leroy Monroe, who held the position until 1940, when he had to leave town. Karl Hoffman then consented to be Scoutmaster.

The boys took many hikes and burned their food occasionally, but it left many pleasant memories for quite a few boy scouts. Through these years in Troop 28 several reached the highest honor scouting has, which is Eagle Scout. Their names are Leroy Monroe, Robert and Frank McCauley, Paul Kerr, who turned out to be quite a doctor too, Harry Smith and Edward West.

In the late 1940's school superintendent George Rader, was the leader. Derrill Murphy was the scoutmaster during the fifties, and at that time they held their meetings in the old school building just before it was torn

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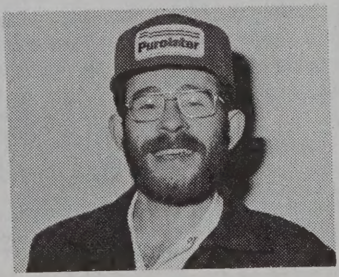

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down. Jim Jones and Jack Straley were Scout leaders through the late 1950's. Harold Bungard then assumed the post and probably was scout master longer than anyone else. "Buck", as everyone calls him, led Troop 28 from 1963 until 1973.

During these years Troop 28 was very active, hiking trails, such as the Chief Little Turtle Trail and the Kekionga. They attended Camp Lakota and Camp Neal Armstrong at Defiance, and attended various other camporees, some that were located out of state. They spent weekends such as camping and touring Wright-Patterson Air Force Base and Museum in Dayton. They sponsored Cub Scout camporees also. Many Troop 28 boys were active in the "Order of the Arrow," and attended conclaves around the state.

During this period other boys also reached the highest rank, Eagle Scout. They are Mike Killian, Rick Straley, Keith Bungard, Huber Orchalski, Bill Lenhart, Raymond Schlisser, Dave Rowan, Mike Phillips, Stanley Rowan and Jim Battershell Jr., and Ron Phillips was awarded the "God and Country" award. Harold Bungard was well assisted by people like Bob Bailey Sr., Jim Corkwell and others. At the present time Troop 28 is being reorganized with Dave Kaduk as Scoutmaster.

As in all other organizations there are many people behind the scenes working as committeemen, these people also deserve credit for their many hours of work.

Scouting is a great character builder and it always will be, if the troops in the future have the great spirit and leadership it always has had in the past.

— Compiled by James Battershell Sr.
and Harold "Buck" Bungard

Troop 216

Boy Scout Troop 216 was founded in February, 1968. The troop is sponsored by the Trinity United Methodist Church of Hicksville, Ohio. Richard L. Savage was the first Scoutmaster. Some of the first boys to be in the troop were: Carl Collins, Curtis Panasuk, Charles Collins, George Taylor, Steve Dowell, Dave Leavell, David Leonard, John Hart, John Bailey, George Martinez, Rob Holt, Richard McClure, James Quaintance, Mike Fields, Kevin Kreg, Arden McGinnis and Steve DeVeau. The troop's first overnite outing was the Annual Polar Bear. This was a real challenge for Scoutmaster Savage and seventeen 11 year olds. Without any previous experience, they weathered conditions and learned together.

Young men making up local Scout Troop #216 include, left to right, kneeling, Jeff Killian, Greg Brown, Dave Smith, Pat Street, Paige Craig and Mitch Slattery. Second row, Steve Bare, Mark Timbrook, Rob Moon, Bob Battershell, Steve Thiel, Ronnie Linder and Chad Wyatt. Third row, Rod Bare, Bill Bailey, Jeff Wonderly, Mike Russell, Jeff Smith and Bob Boon. Fourth row, Rev. Daniel Bare, Rick Straley, Assistant Scout Master Mike Neidhardt, Don Brown, committee chairman Loren Smith, Assistant Scout Master Dave Russell and Scout Master Harry Street.

In the summer of 1968, with very little equipment, the troop went to summer camp at Camp Lakota, Defiance, Ohio.

November 1968, the troop sold Christmas trees. This was such a successful project that they decided to make it an annual project. In 1969, under Doctor's orders, Scoutmaster Savage had to step down from his duties. Jack Shock and Lon DeLong becomes the leaders. The troop continued to progress under this leadership.

From the fall of 1970 until May 1971, Scoutmaster Savage came back. In May, 1971, Harry Street became Scoutmaster and still holds that position.

In the summer of 1971 Scoutmaster Street and Jim Corkwell took nine boys to summer camp at Camp Lakota. The troop received Honor Troop of the week and have maintained this honor every year since.

Twenty one boys and six adults went to Pickerel Lake, Vanderbilt, Michigan; during the summer of 1974.

At the present time, Troop 216 has 42 members and 16 committee members. The troop has 3 Assistant Scoutmasters. They are: David Russell, Michael Neidhardt and Steven Dowell.

Richard Altman is the first Eagle Scout from this troop. There are five more boys progressing toward the Eagle rank for the year, 1975. Dave Smith and Jeff Smith have completed the God & Country Award. Six more boys are working on this award.

The Scouts and leaders of Troop 216 are very proud to be part of an organization that teaches young men to become fine adult citizens, to be able to enjoy nature and its surroundings.

— Compiled by Harry Street

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Farms of Yesteryear

Years ago, farm families were pretty much isolated from their neighbors with no telephone, newspaper, mailmen and impassable mud roads in wet weather. Often trees were thrown across the roads to help carry a wagon through the worst spots.

Today, incandescent pole lights dot the countryside, but a kerosene lantern accompanied the farmer of yesteryear on his early round of chores and again late at night to pull the harness from the work weary horses.

Clearing land was a slow process of chopping and digging, with the stumps often left to rot. They farmed around tree stumps and often used a jumper plow to prepare the ground for corn planting because as it hit a root it would slide over it. A V shaped drag helped work the ground while some used a bobsled to mark rows for a jabber planter or to plant by hand with a hoe. It was then cultivated with a two shovel walking plow. Later, corn was checked (evenly planted both ways) as it was necessary to cultivate it both lengthwise and crosswise due to the weed problems and the lack of herbicides.

If corn was to be used for feed a sled or wheel corn cutter was used with a horse to pull it. Sometimes corn was cut with a long knife, shocked and run through a shredder, the fodder and stalks could be saved for winter feed. Corn was picked by hand and many times, with the snow flying and for the lack of a hired hand, the farmer and his wife husked corn in the field, with a child or two riding in a little box in the wagon.

A cold winter day would often see a farmer in the field with a team of horses on both ends of a railroad iron to drag through the corn field to snap the frozen stalks loose from the ground. Often a dump rake would rake the corn stalks into long windrows so that one night soon, the darkened sky might be lighted for miles around as whole families would work to burn the corn fodder in preparation for a new planting.

Grain crops were sometimes cut with a scythe or cradled, tied by hand with straw and flailed out. Later the twine binder and the threshing machine came into existence. The binder cut the grain, ran it through the machine and it came out, bound in bundles. Men then shocked the bundles, four in a row, two on each side and one bundle spread on the top for a cap. After a drying period, a group of neighbors, who formed a threshing ring, would come to the farm with their teams and wagons with front and back standards and while a man on the ground pitched the bundles, another stacked them. Near the barn the threshing machine was set up to separate the grain for the grain wagon to haul to the elevator or put in the farmers bin. The straw was blown into a straw stack to be used for bedding for the livestock in the winter. Several wives would help one another cook for the group of roughly twenty-five men. Nothing could be prepared far in advance because there was no refrigeration. Children all seemed to love threshing days because it had an air of excitement with all of the horses, people, food and the hopes of a ride on the grain wagon. The children would pump the wash tub full of water early in the morning and the sun would warm in by mealtime.

The countryside was dotted with windmills and on a windy day the horse tanks were quickly filled. It was one of the picturesque things about our countryside in the days gone by.

Following the steam engine, the one cylinder Mogo, International tractor and the two cylinder Titan, more steel wheeled tractors came into the farming scene. Later, rubber tired tractors and wagons made road travel seem a real luxury.

Today farming methods have come from a hand jabber planter to a planter that monitors each row, so that the operator knows if the machine is working properly. Tractors with more horsepower, air conditioned cabs and a radio have replaced the horse. Following the threshing machine and three to six foot pull type combine, today the self propelled combine can be purchased with options of an air conditioned cab and up to twenty four foot cutting head.

No two farms are alike, as are no two men. Todays farmer must be knowledgeable in many phases and must keep abreast with the constant changes.

Life on the farm can be truly beautiful!

— Compiled by
Mrs. Mary Lou Kemerer

The farmers of yesteryear used a different form of horsepower as evidenced by W. T. Elliott, Carl Tract and Evert Day who display Elliott's Clay, Brandon and Rummer. The photo, which was submitted by Tellis Carey was taken about 1913 in back of Dr. Applegate's home at the corner of Maple and Edgerton Streets.

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Members of the 1923 Hicksville Volunteer Fire Department included, left to right, front row, Estel Myers, Bill West, John Clinger, Frosty Moore, Punch Driver, Kenny Driver, Merle Wells, Orley McDonald, Tellis Carey, Clare Cahill. Back row, Ray Easterly, Vest Thompson, Bill Keener, Alf Wonderly, Guy Wilson and dog, Forrest Monroe, Allen Poper, Latton Roan, F. T. McCalla, Art Dotts.

Hicksville Fire Department founded in 1872

The Hicksville Fire Department had a beginning in the long ago, and something like Topsey of Uncle Tom's Cabin fame, "just grew up."

Due to early records being consumed when the municipal hall was destroyed by fire in 1892, the records of the earliest organization are hazy.

The first organization dates in 1872, the late John Swilley, landlord, being its chief. (The late Amelia Bingham, one of America's famous actresses, was a daughter of Mr. Swilley). It seems that of equipment they had none, simply grasping domestic buckets and receptacles that come to hand and hurrying to the scene of trouble.

About ten years later municipal buckets were purchased and it became the duty of the firemen to get these to the scene of their use, together with what ladders could be located and pressed into service.

Hicksville was growing rapidly and the need of fire protection became more and more apparent, and as a consequence fire cisterns were finally decided upon, as the question of water, particularly in the business section, had grown acute. Of these cisterns three large ones were constructed, all in the streets, one between what is now Union 76 Station and Sohio Station, one in front of the Bank building and one on South Main Street, across from the present fire hall. These cisterns filled from the street flow and tile and contained usually as much mud as water.

This condition was found to be unsatisfactory and May 19, 1890, a resolution was adopted by the municipal council to construct a waterworks system, the same being completed and in use before the winter of that year.

Having settled the water proposition, the same fall, 1890, a hand drawn hose cart and also a hook and ladder wagon were purchased and an efficient department was organized with the late Frank Snyder as chief. With this outfit many highly successful battles were fought with the flames, the department being highly efficient and skilled.

In 1925, the proposition came up to once more improve the department, which resulted in the purchase of two Reo trucks, one of them being chemical and ladder truck combined, the other a hose truck, constituting first class equipment and giving the public first-class fire protection.

The first roll call book of the department was consumed when the municipal building was destroyed by fire, the existing records showing that Frank Snyder was chief who served from December 29, 1890, until November 1894. H. H. Miller was elected chief to serve until April 1895. Carl Diffenbaugh for one year, then Frank Snyder served from April 1896 to April 1903. E. E. Crarry served April 1903 to April 1906. Ed Sinn, chief from April 1906 to April 1911. H. H. Miller, chief April 1911 to April 1913. Adrian Miller, chief April 1913 to July 1913. A. J. Blaylock, chief July 1913 to April 1914. J. O. Longsworth, chief April 1914 to January 1918. Delta Driver, chief January 1918 to February 1940. Alf Wonderly, chief February 1940 to January 1947. Clair Cahill, chief January 1947 to January 1954. Allen Poper, chief January 1954 to January 1965. Earl Beverly, chief January 1967 to January 1968. Robert Stotler Sr., chief January 1968 to January 1972. Jack Gloor, chief January 1972 to the present time.

The company consisted of twenty firemen and the chief until 1973 when five more men were added to total thirty. The department at present has the following equipment: 1940

LaFrance pumper, 1952 International front mount, 1957 tanker and a 1972 combination pumper. At the date of this writing bids are out for the purchase of a thousand gallon pumper to update the department.

The department through the years has added much to aid our community. In 1960, the department purchased their first resuscitator truck, a panel truck and have had two ambulances previous to acquiring the one presently used. The rescue unit presently being used is a 1974 Dodge Van purchased and partially equipped through a federal grant. The men operating this unit have had advanced first aid and in April of 1974 completed sixty hours of Emergency Medical Technician training. All time spent on the Rescue Squad is strictly volunteer and no compensation is received by the men.

Since April of 1968 fire and rescue calls are received by the city dispatcher. This had been handled by Perkins and Reeb Funeral Home for thirteen years prior to this.

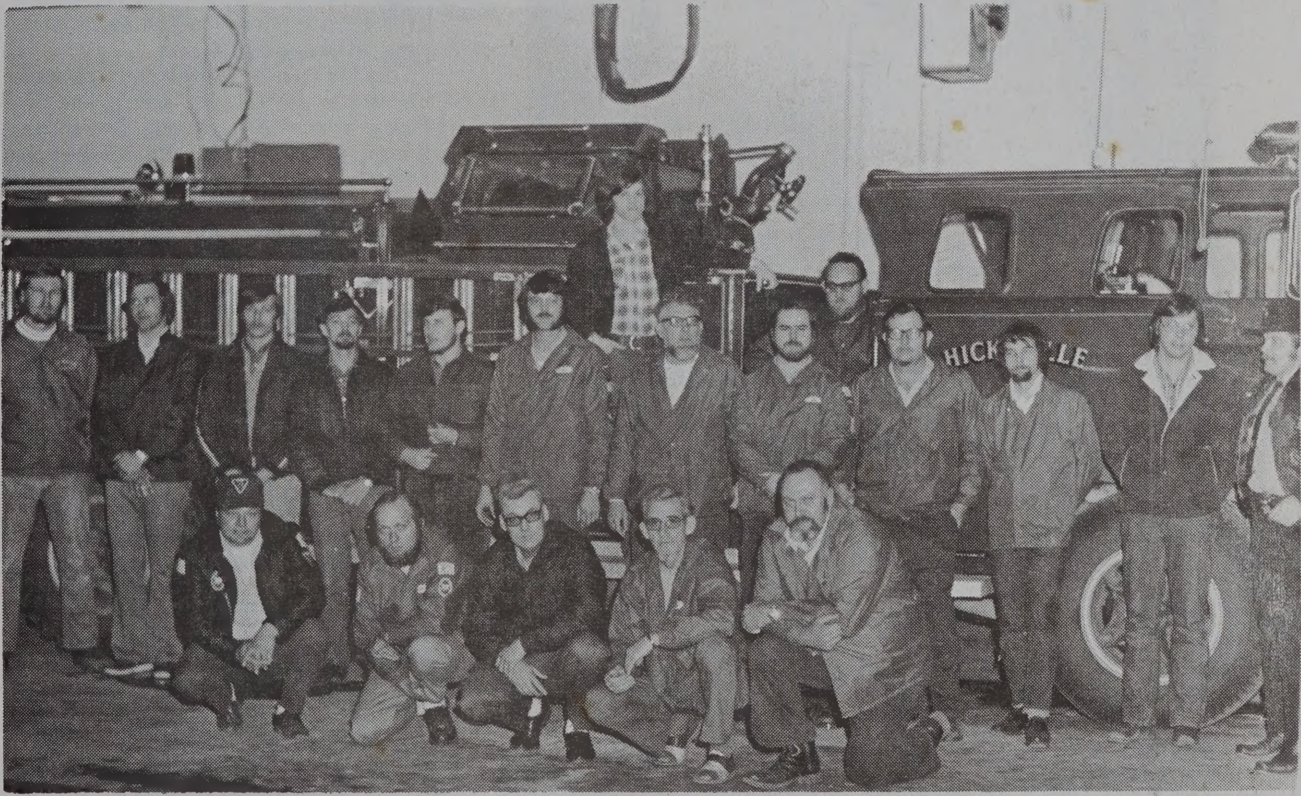
To mention only a couple of large fire losses in the past, Methodist Church fire, January 28, 1940; Presbyterian Church fire, December 10, 1961; both of which were a complete loss.

The department headquarters are now located in the municipal building on S. Main Street. The first meeting in the new building was held August 9, 1965. The men sat on saw horses as there were no chairs. The present municipal building is the third to house the department. The first was destroyed by fire in 1892. The second one was razed to make room to build the present building.

Present Hicksville Fire Department is as follows; Fire Chief — Jack Gloor; Assistant Chief, Robert Stotler Sr.; First Assistant, Louis Rex; Captain, Virgil Pearson; Lieutenant, Jerry Hissong; Treasurer, Claron Bauer; Secretary, James Wonderly.

Joe Stotler Jr., Norman Terrill, Mike Brown, Harold (Buck) Bungard, Ed Roan, Lee Driver, Berlin Kline, George Siebert, Mike Cromwell, William Metz, Robert Bailey Jr., Carlos Bush, Robert Hart, Robert Collins, Richard Evans, James Turnbull, John Handy, William Mock, William Elwood, Robert Evans, Keith Bungard, Ivan Van Horn.

— Compiled by Mrs. Jack Gloor



Included as members of the present Hicksville Volunteer Fire Department include, kneeling, Jerry Hissong, Louis Rex, Robert Stotler, Sr., Jack Gloor Fire Chief, Virgil "Pete" Pearson. Standing, Bill Metz, Bill Mock, Bob Evans, Dick Evans, Mike Brown, Joe Stotler, Claron Bauer, Jim Wonderly, Norm Terrill, Mike Cromwell, Ed Roan, Ivan Van Horn. Back row, Bob Bailey, Jr. and Carlos Bush.

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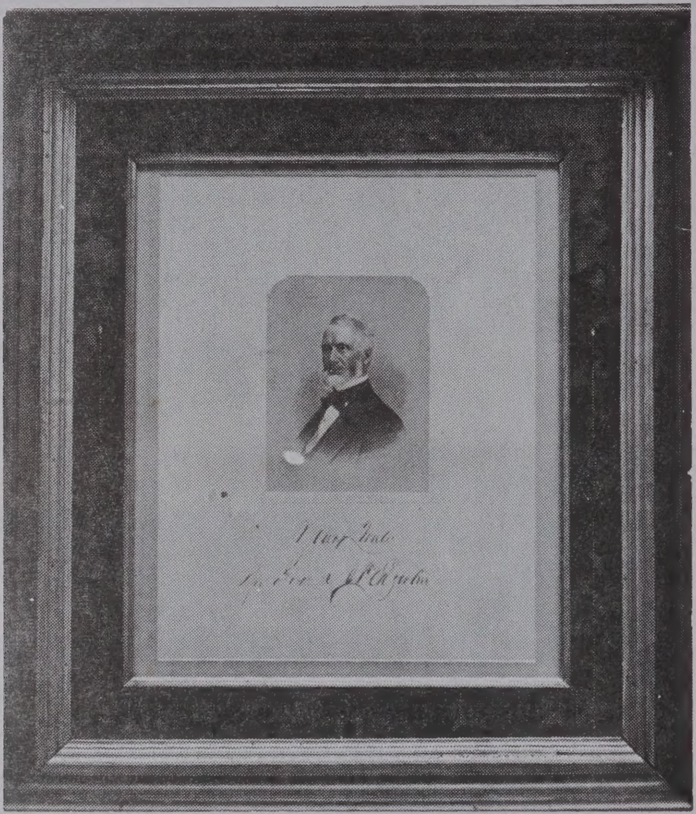
LOCATED ACROSS FROM DOTCO ON ROUTE 18 EAST.

Johnson Memorial Library

The first definite action to provide library service for Hicksville was taken on January 11, 1939, when interested citizens met in the assembly room of the old brick school building and voted to participate in a county library system to be operated under the Intangible Tax Law of Ohio.

Elected as board members for the future library were Carma J. Rowe, Mrs. George Simmons, Mrs. Harry Belknap, C. C. Howenstine, George A. Patterson and Rev. Harold B. Monroe.

The first library was located in a basement corner room of the school building and open house was held on September 20, 1939, to welcome the new facility into the community. In anticipation of the need for larger quarters, Carma J. Rowe established a building fund.



In 1975 Mrs. Beulah (Wilderson) Hopkins of Edgerton presented an autographed picture of A. P. Edgerton to the Johnson Memorial Library. The picture was presented by Mr. Edgerton to Mrs. Hopkins' father, John Wilderson, about 1878.

In 1953 a ninety-nine year lease for a library site was given to the Hicksville Library Board by the Hicksville Village Council. This included a request for a meeting room for the city officers and council. Such a room was provided with a separate entrance at the back of the main part of the building.

The one-story brick Colonial-style building was begun early in 1953 and dedicated in December of that year with a brief but significant ceremony. Carma J. Rowe presented to the community for its use and enjoyment the Johnson Memorial Library completely furnished, as a gift in memory of her father and mother, Wesley and Melissa Johnson and her sister, Mabel Johnson. Mrs. Rowe cut the ribbon during the afternoon and early evening open house.

In 1964 a new agreement was made between the Library Board and the City when the Council Room was vacated. The Library Board paid the City ten thousand dollars, thus acquiring use of the entire building under the ninety-nine year lease.

The present Library Board includes Robert Longsworth, Carma J. Rowe, Dr. A. Hilbert, Esther Howenstine, Glenn Elder, Edith Hart Smith and George Belknap. Mrs. Florence Tuttle is the present librarian.

The lot where the present library stands has a history of its own. At the turn of the century, The State of Ohio had plans to use it for an armory building site. This idea never materialized and the lot was given by the state to the Village of Hicksville. In the early twenties, the Village permitted a committee from the American Legion to landscape the lot and build tennis courts for a public park.

— Compiled by Robert Longsworth

"God has blessed Hicksville with a prosperous first 100 years. Give Him praise! MARANATHA!"

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Hart Catalog Agency

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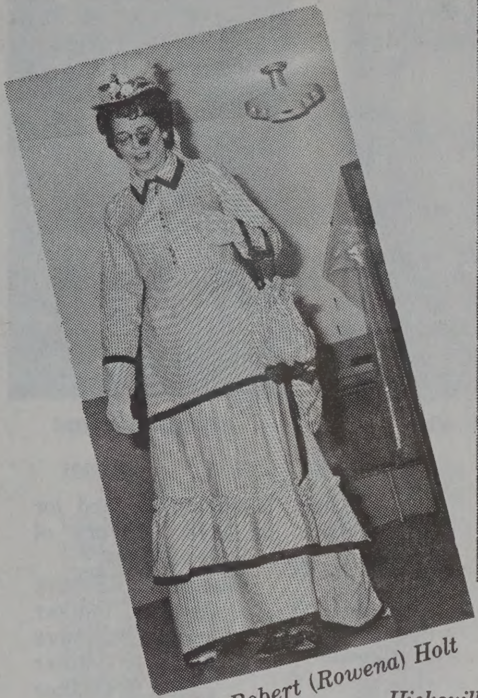
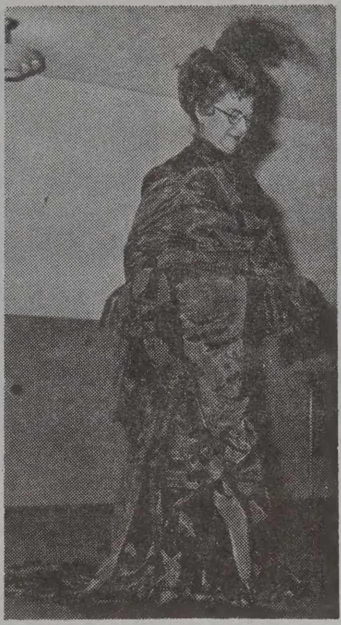
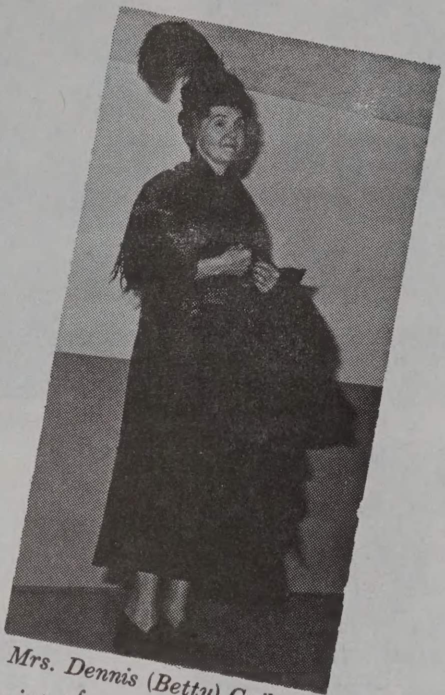


Mrs. Robert (Rowena) Holt

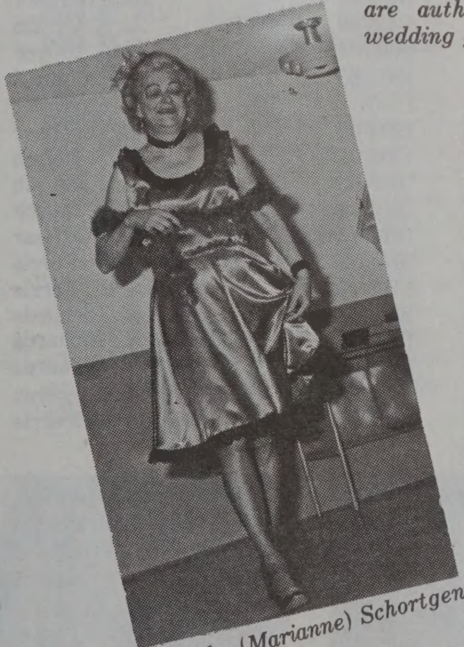


Mrs. Jay (Helen) Volkert

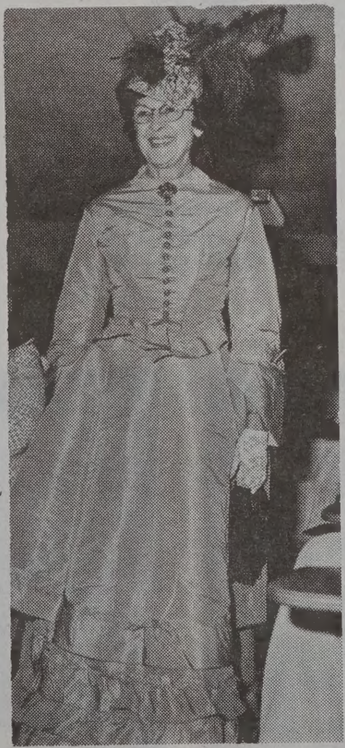


Mrs. Dennis (Betty) Guilford

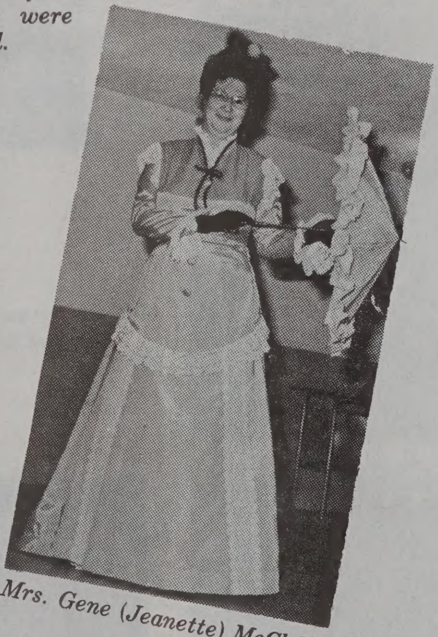
Hicksville women really got into the swing of things for Hicksville's Centennial making dresses, hats, parisols and digging through Grandma's trunks to come up with costumes fitting for the occasion. These dresses are only a few of those beautiful outfits seen in Hicksville throughout the Centennial celebration. The dresses pictured on Mrs. Alice Longsworth and Mrs. Betty Guilford are authentic and both outfits, which were wedding gowns, are close to 100 years old.



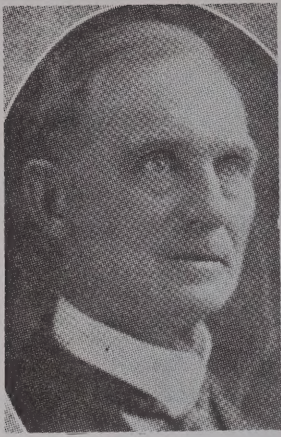
Mrs. John (Marianne) Schortgen

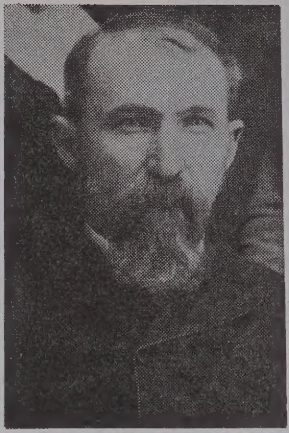


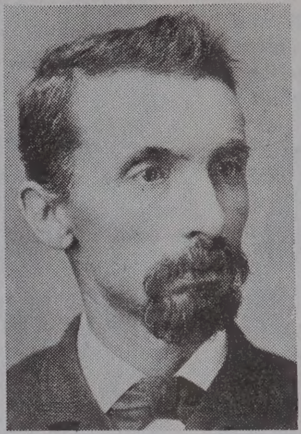
Mrs. Robert (Alice) Longsworth

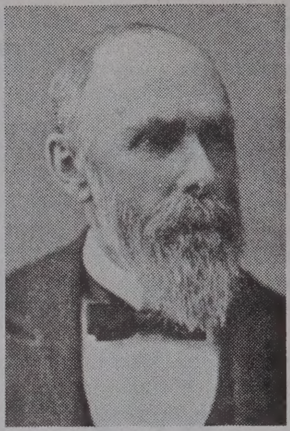


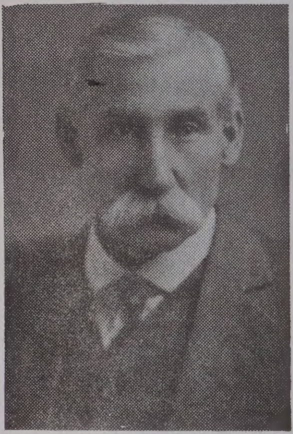
Mrs. Gene (Jeanette) McClellan

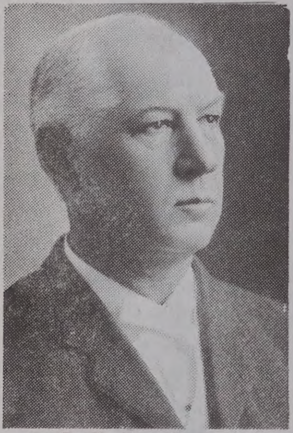

L. E. Griffin


Joseph E. Kerr


James E. Coulter


Thomas C. Kinmont


E. J. Reisch


B. F. Casebeer

MAYORS OF HICKSVILLE THROUGH THE YEARS

Pictures not available for:

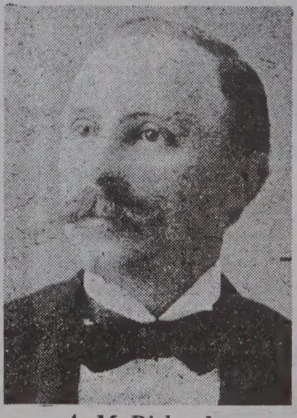
Abraham Summors
John Bergerr
L. D. Bevington
W. L. McConnell

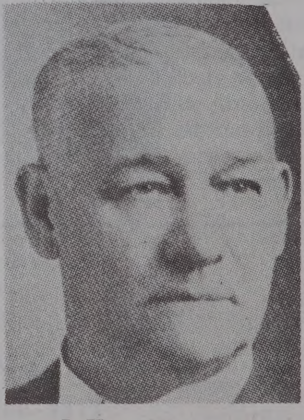
The Village of Hicksville filed for incorporation in 1875. Mayors of Hicksville, Ohio, are as follows:

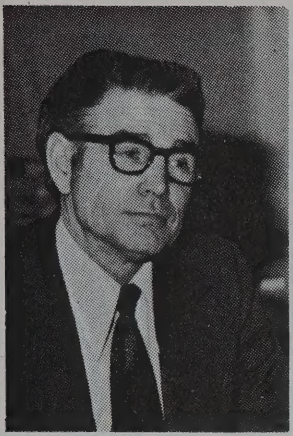
1876-77	Thomas C. Kinmont
1878-79	James E. Coulter
1880-81	Abraham Summors
1882-83	James E. Coulter
1884-85	James E. Coulter
1886-87	James E. Coulter
1888-89	James E. Coulter
1890-91	John Bergerr
	Joseph E. Kerr
	L. D. Bevington
1892-93	L. E. Griffin
1894-95	L. E. Griffin
1896-97	John Bergerr
1898-99	L. E. Griffin
1900-01	E. J. Reisch
1902-03	W. L. McConnell
1903	B. F. Casebeer
1904-05	B. F. Casebeer
1906-07	E. J. Reisch
1908-09	E. J. Reisch
1910-11	E. J. Reisch
1912-13	Earl C. Bear
1914-15	Walter W. Ferris
1916-17	Walter W. Ferris
1918-19	A. M. Richards
1920-21	A. M. Richards
1922-23	A. M. Richards
1924-25	J. H. Lower
1926-27	Walter W. Ferris

Earl C. Bear

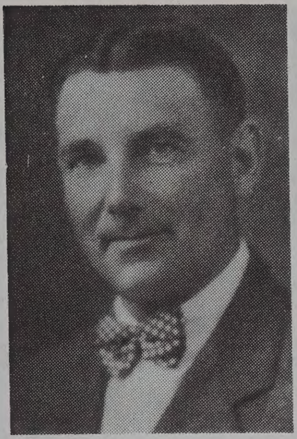
Walter W. Ferris

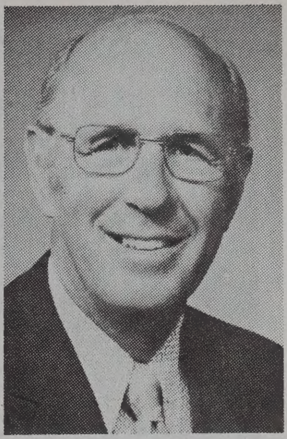

A. M. Richards


J. Henry Lower


Jay T. Volkert

Edith G. Harkey


Grover C. Maxwell


Robert S. Longsworth

1930-31	A. M. Richards
	E. R. Myers
1932-33	J. H. Lower
1934-35	L. E. Hart
1936-37	M. H. Bevington
1938-39	M. H. Bevington
1940-41	M. H. Bevington
1941-42	Charles Poole
1942-43	Walter W. Ferris
1944-45	Walter W. Ferris
1946-47	H. W. Carr

The salary of Mayor, January 1, 1946, is $500.00 per year. Hicksville has no charter; however, it does have articles of incorporation.

1948-49	Walter Mentzer
1950-51	Robert S. Longsworth
1952-53	Robert S. Longsworth
1954-55	Robert S. Longsworth
1955-56	Robert S. Longsworth
1957-58	Grover C. Maxwell
1959-60	Grover C. Maxwell
1961-62	Grover C. Maxwell
1962-63	Grover C. Maxwell
1964-65	Robert S. Longsworth
1966-67	Robert S. Longsworth
1967-68	Robert S. Longsworth
1969-73	Edith G. Harkey
1973-	Jay T. Volkert

Four year terms were mandatory after Mrs. Edith Harkey, who also was the first woman mayor of the village.

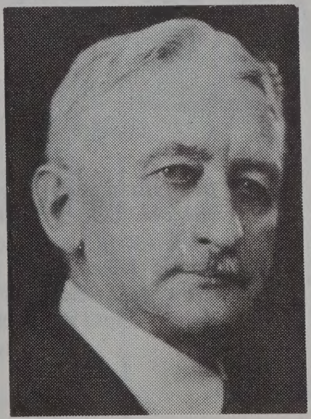
H. W. Carr

The Mayor's pictures were coordinated and submitted by Mrs. Guy (Opal) Volkert.

Walter Mentzer

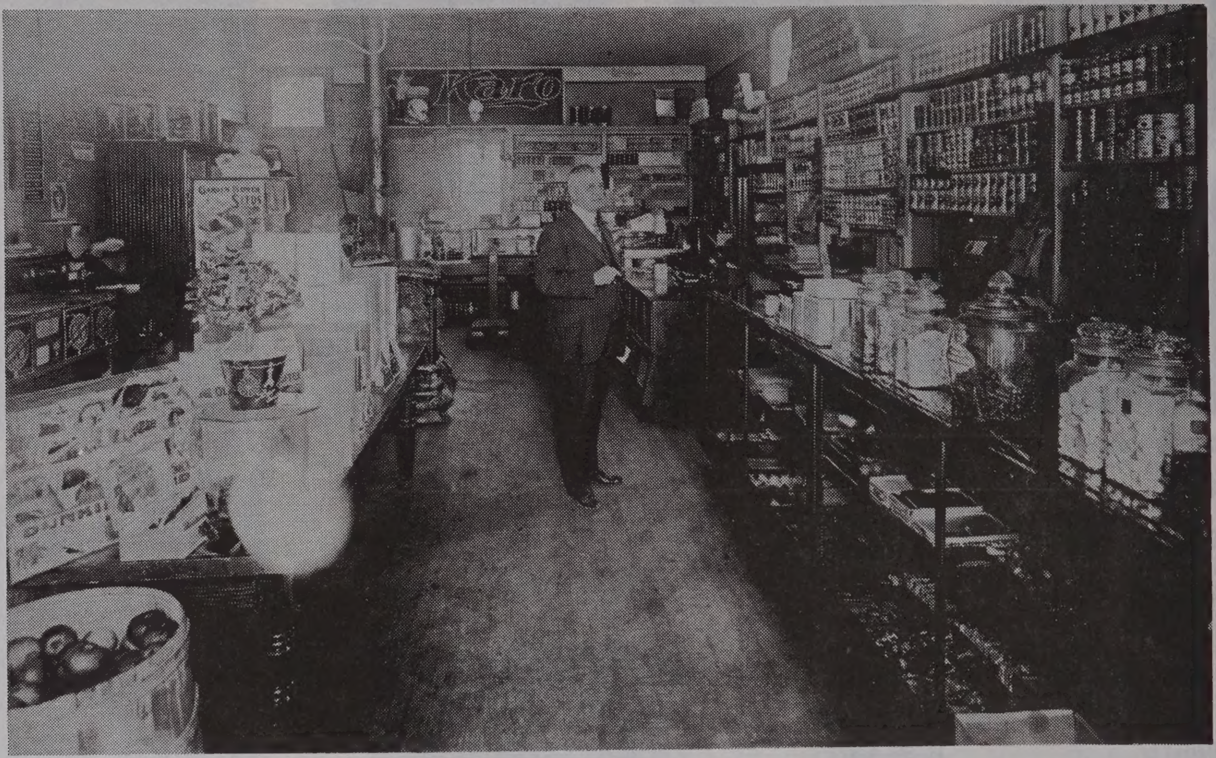
Charles Poole

E. R. Myers


James J. Lower

L. E. Hart

M. H. Bevington

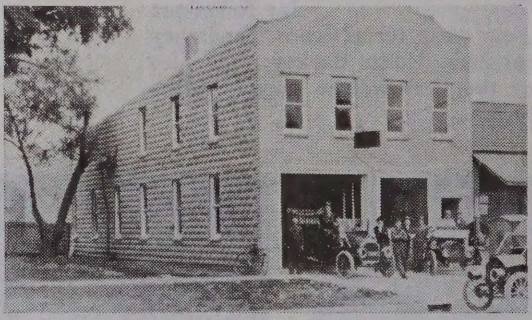


Penny candy, Karo, Argo, Campbell's Soup and the ever present apple barrel were among the items to be found upon entering Wallace Boon's grocery department in the early 1900's. The photo was submitted by Boon's granddaughter, Mrs. Margy (Boone) Elder.

LITTLE COUNTRY TOWN

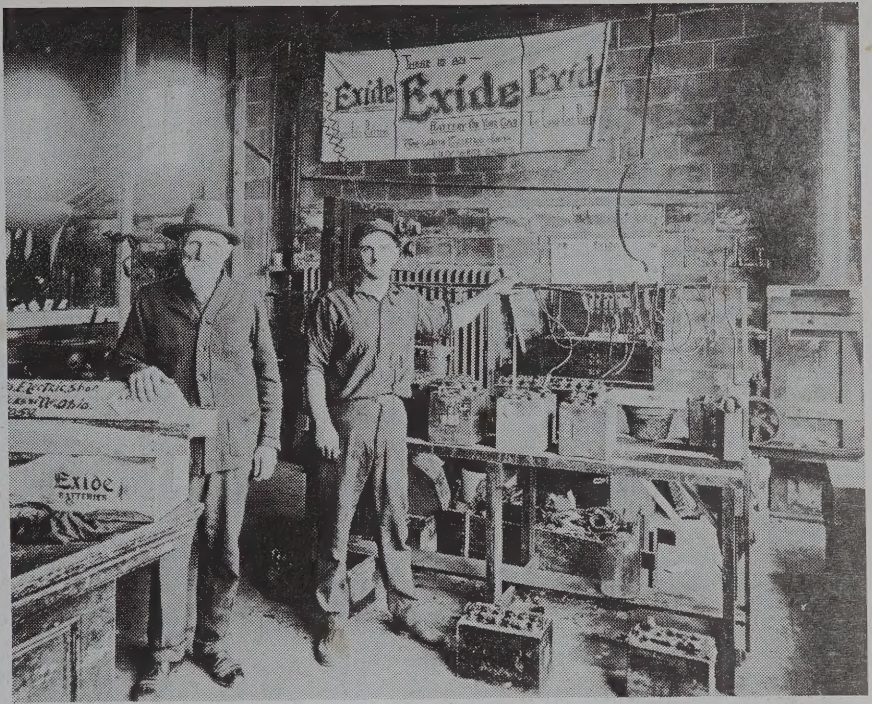
I love a little country town;
I love its flowers and trees;
I love its quiet peacefulness;
Its birds; its humming bees.
I love its kindly womenfolk;
I love its girls and boys;
Its sturdy men, who understand
My sorrows and my joys.
I love its blue sky overhead;
Its air that's clean and sweet.
I love the laughter and the tramp
Of small town children's feet.
In little country towns I find
The will to do and dare:
I love a little country town
Because I found God there!

—*Joyce Allen, Binghamton, N. Y.*



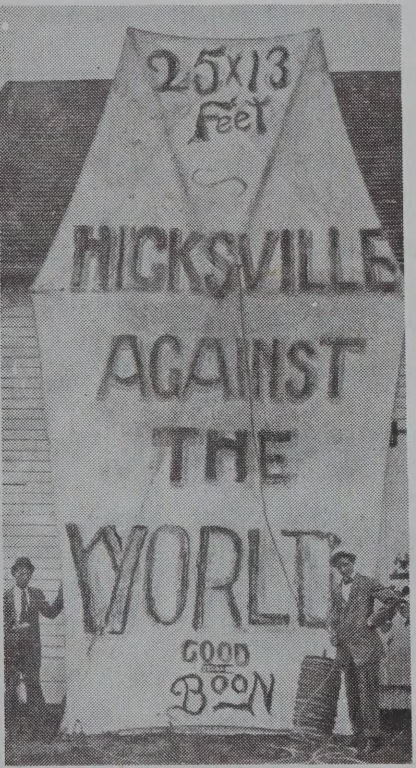
Still standing on North Main Street is the old Killian Garage. The building is used today as storage by the Village Street Department and stands next to the present Bob Miller Ford Sales.
Photo submitted by Kermit Agler

In the fall of 1918 Paul Lenz, left and Fred Forder, right, posed for this picture on the Clemer Road.



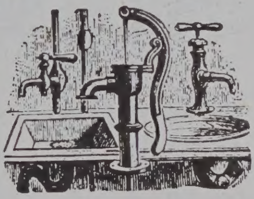
Estele Meyers and an unidentified gentleman take time from their chores at the Lilly White Garage and Auto Electric Shop at the corners of North Maple and East High Streets to pose for this 1920's picture. The garage is now the site of Goodwin's Union 76 station.

Photo submitted by Frank Hefty.



Lavon Boon, right, and his friend seem to be telling the whole world to go fly a kite when they constructed this 25 x 13 foot kite in the early 1920's.

Photo submitted by Mrs. Margy (Boone) Elder



Ford Ford

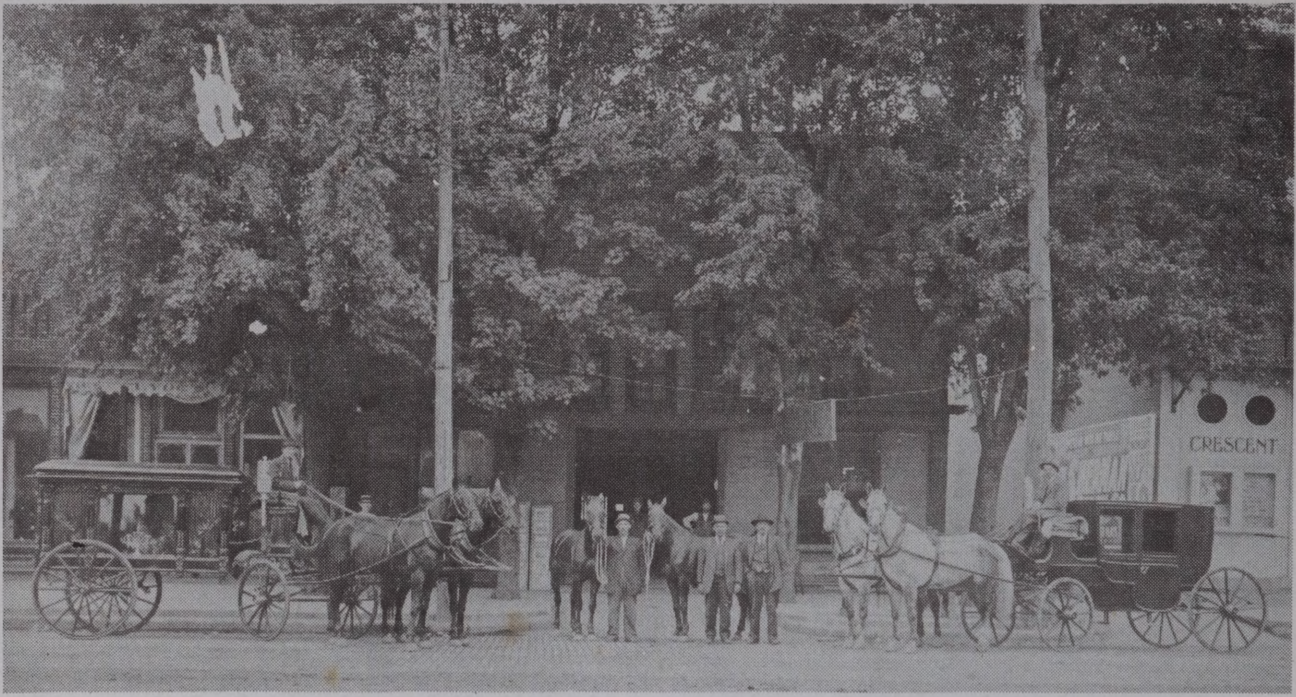
MOATS FORD

Our 59th Year

No One No Where
Beats A Moats Deal

Paul E. Moats
Sherwood, Ohio

Mark C. Moats
Defiance, Ohio



This livery stable in 1908 stood where the village parking lot is now located on East High Street between Tribune Printing Company and the Huber Building. The men posed for this photo while preparing the horse drawn funeral carriages. They are, John Elliott, driving hearse, left; William Elliott, holding team; George F. Johnson and his uncle Frank Lawson, standing and Theodore Baker driving the family carriage. Note the brick pavement of the time and the Crescent Theatre on the extreme right.

Photo submitted by Mrs. Arthur (Bernice Johnson) Schell

COMPLIMENTS

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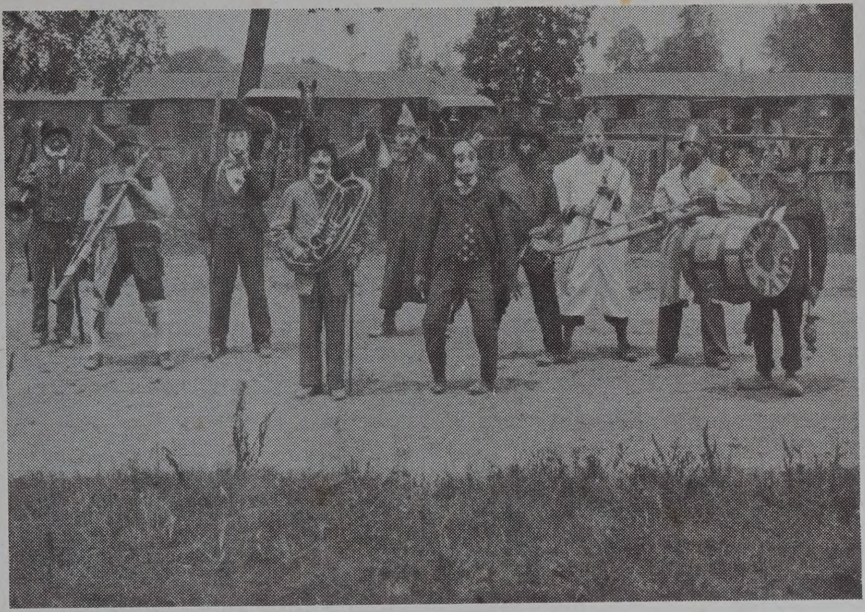
ANTWERP, OHIO



This early 1900's July 4 celebration was livened up with the presence of this "Rube Band." Made up of local business men with their own homemade instruments the group entertained the townspeople on many occasions.
Submitted by Robert Lower

The

Hicksville Census

Year	Village	Township
1850		507
1860		910
1870		1287
1880	1212	2381
1890	2141	3314
1900	2520	3773
1910	2395	3441
1920	2378	3306
1930	2445	3322
1940	2549	3486
1950	2629	
1960	3116	
1970	3461	

The 1850 to 1940 figures were obtained from the Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, Washington, D. C. The 1950 to 1970 figures were obtained from the Hicksville Village Records.

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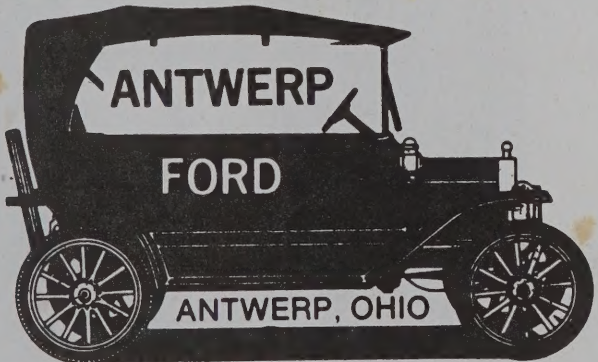

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Arco Gasoline — Oils and Greases
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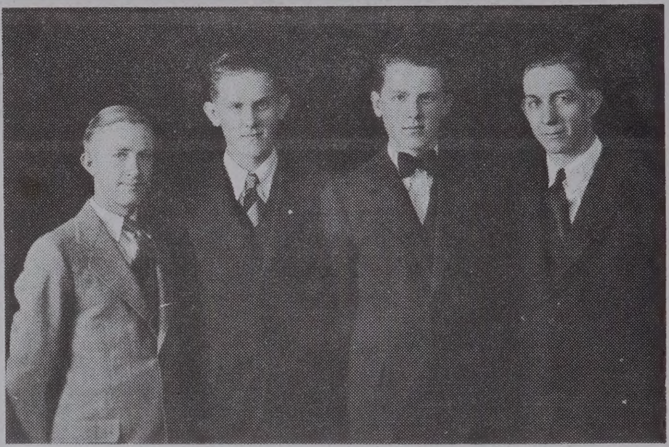
Lumber Co.**
Sherwood, Ohio

Lowell B. Moats

Many Defiance County fairgoers, above, enjoyed harness racing even in the early fair days. While uptown visitors witnessed a slightly more disorganized race, below. The pictures, for which no dates were given, were submitted by Max Grover.



The ABC Quartet was organized in 1930 and provided lively but wholesome entertainment in the Hicksville area. Pictured are, left to right, Dwight Burlingame, first tenor; Paul Carr, second tenor; Joe Carr, baritone and Mervin Applegate, bass.

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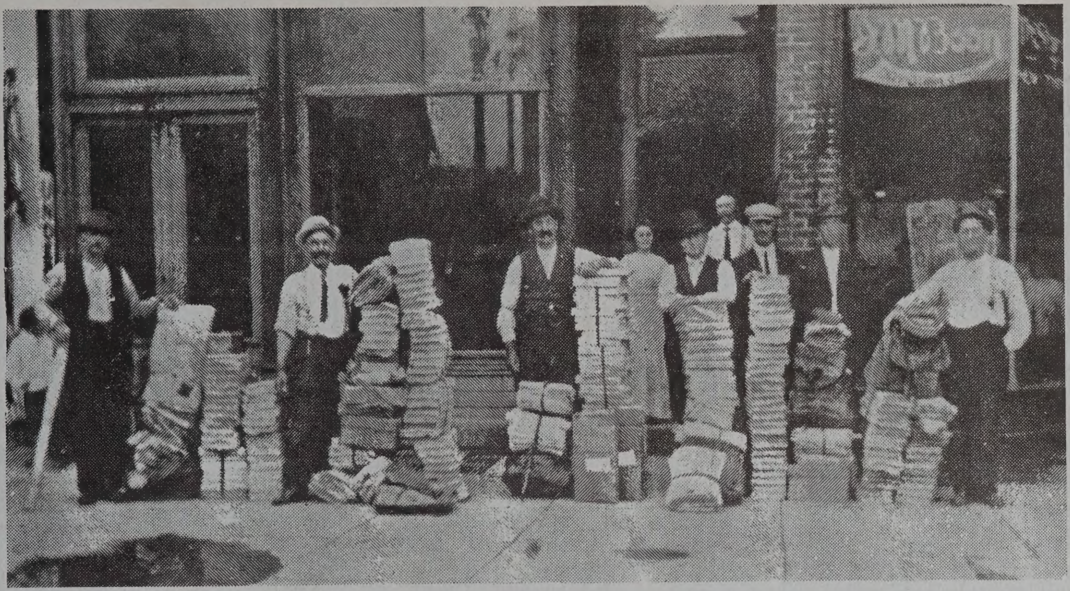

Hicksville's Postal employees were the subject of this postcard submitted by Tellis Carey. It was mailed to Mr. Carey's parents, Mr. and Mrs. H. P. Carey, by Mr. and Mrs. C. W. Mavis when the post office was located on East High Street on the south side of the street, near the present Sarahbell's Dress Shop. The only date legible is "December 25."

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Ney
Phone 658-2329

Sherwood
Phone 899-2181

Fleet-Wing Petroleum Products

GOODYEAR TIRES

FARM GASOLINES and MOTOR OILS FRONT WHEEL ALIGNMENT
HOME HEATING OIL "PIT-STOP" ON THE FARM SERVICE

Ken, Esther and Sally Jo Stoller

The Seed People

Congratulate Hicksville
On It's 100 Year Anniversary
In Their 1915 Ford Truck

Peerless Restaurant

SHERWOOD, OHIO

Home Cooked
NOON SPECIALS

Open Daily
Closed Thursday Afternoon

Pizza & Beer

"Hicksville The Town Worth While"

If you seek a situation
for to start an enterprise
or perhaps to buy a package
Makes no difference the size.

You just wind your way towards Hicksville,
and your face will wear a smile:
For, there is no town like Hicksville,
Little City, that's worthwhile.

Once you have landed in the City,
You will wish to buy a home.
Go to Zeis or Spide or Wilson
Or to James; you'll cease to roam.

If your house needs alterations,
and you cannot pay the price,
There are rooms at Hotel Swilley,
and at Hootmans that are nice.

Eats delicious, get at Seibert's
Or at Dunkin's, till you choke;
Pay a visit up to Tommy's
and the restaurant — "The Oak."

You at length must seek employment,
But you need not travel far.
Go to Bowser, Crook or Miller,
Or the man who makes cigars.

Seek a church home, don't neglect it;
Then your joy will be complete,
I am sure that you will find one
For they seem on every street.

If you quarrel with your neighbor,
and he does not treat you right,
Ferris, Griffin, also Simmons,
Each will help you win the fight.

Search your pockets and your purses
and subscribe for "The Hicksville News"
There are many items in it,
I am sure 'will cure your blues.

Maxwell, Crescent, Shrider, Topper
And where "Busy Bees" to thrive
There are mills and elevators;
Blacksmith shops in number — five.

Two department stores, both dandies
Ten-cent store which go by twos.
There's the shop with "Repp"utation
Which does never cobble shoes.

Movie shows, you can't find better,
If you search this old world o'er
Most forgot Getrost and Murphy,
and the fine electric store.

Barber shops, I think there are seven;
Also cream stations, galore.
There's a New's Stand run by Haller.
Stop at Cork's Tobacco Store.

Garages, I ne'er could name them
For, there are so many; So,
I will mention only Limpert's
Garage near the B & O.

Three good drug stores and five hardwares
Public School on Smith and Main
Milliner Shops, I know will please you
Ice Cream Parlors, number twain.

Wilderson will treat you kindly
Buy your seed at Clark's Seed Store
Don't forget the plumber, "Dutchy"
Feed and coal get at the "Four."

Buy a ticket on the bus car,
All your freight send on by truck.
There are two efficient Ford Drays,
Hicksville surely is in luck.

Top and Paint Shop, Daub's Cold Storage,
Hicksville Produce Company
And the Greenhouse with its flowers
Also Gollers Factory.

Harness Shop and also Dry Clean
Found on High Street, left and right.
Go to Bond with all your laundry
He is sure to treat you white.

Davidson's Bakery is quite distant
Also Harkey's Canning Farm
Buy a "uke" of Mr. Hadsell
Nothing like Hawaiian charm.

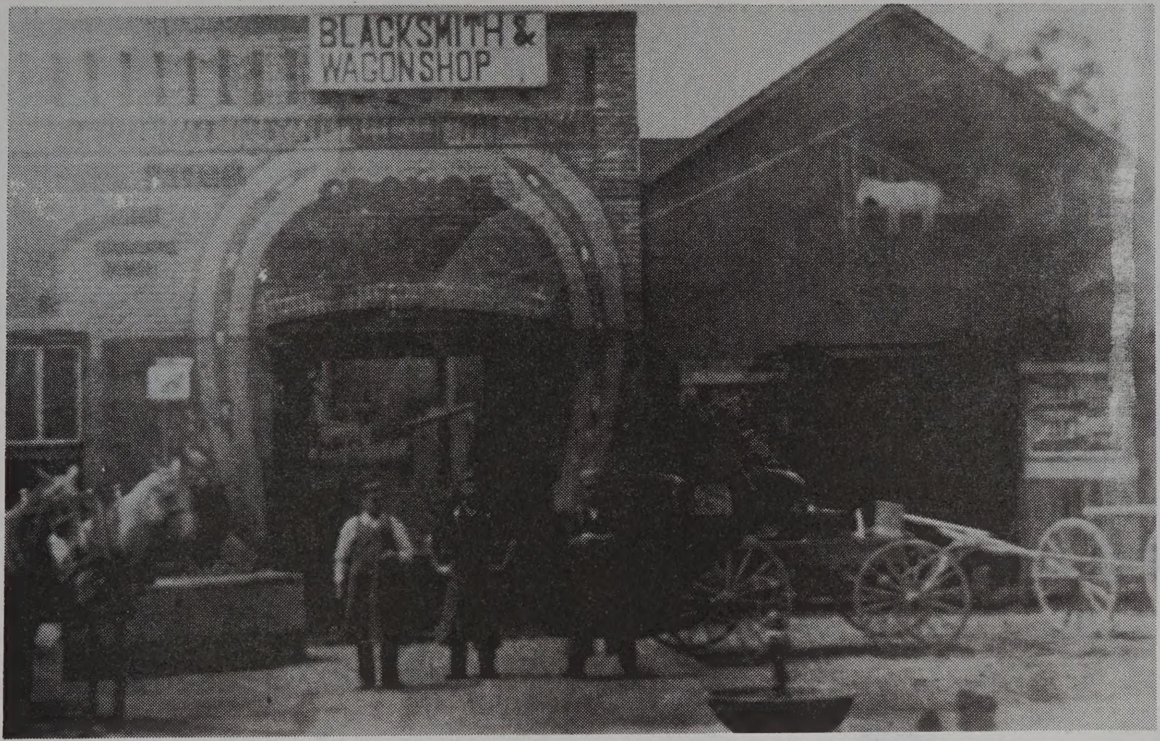
There are Dentists and Opticians,
Life Insurance men, My Land!
Teachers of both art and music
and the famous "Hart's Girl Band."

Meats so fresh, so tender, juicy
Get at Kleckners, Smiths and Ranks
If you then have surplus money,
Lock it up in Hicksville Banks.

Submitted by Darla (Mann) Fusselman

The following offer their congratulations and best wishes to the Hicksville-Jaycee Centennial.

BERNARD and CLARA BROWN
CITY LOAN AND SAVING
BILL and AUDRIE CLELAND
DOUG, BETTY, JEFF and JOE DOEDEN
MASONIC ORDERS OF HICKSVILLE
LINDA'S ARTS AND CRAFTS
HI-LANES BOWLING AND DAIRY BAR
JOHN and LaVERNE BLOSSER
ELWOOD KILLIAN
DICK and MONA ROWAN
AL, TISH, BERT, MICHAEL and STEPHEN DeVEAU



In 1905 the Crouse Blacksmith and Wagon Shop was located at the present 218 West High Street address now owned by Pete Yoder. Working in the shop were, left to right, Bert Crouse and sons, Charles and Homer. Note the well in the foreground where horses were watered. About 1914 the building on the right was moved and a cement block building took its place, where Homer operated the town's first gas station and garage. The brick and cement block buildings still stand in their original locations.

Photo submitted by Mrs. Hazel (Crouse) Whitman.

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1974-75

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Lenny Evans	Secretary
Tom Haase	Treasurer
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Frank Handy	Director
Bruce Guilford	Director
Lance Brown	Director
Ed Morr	Director
Dan Beverly	Director
Tom Metz	Director

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Greg Headley
Stan Stuckey
Mark Leavell
Bob Yoder
Carl Clark
Tom Evans
Gary Yoder
Ed Roan
Kieth Yontz
Monty Nichols
Jack Strubing

* Associate Member

Jaycee officers for 1975 include, seated, left to right, Lance Brown, Director; Mike Phillips, Sgt-at-Arms; Frank Handy, Director; Dennis Lengacher, State Director; Dan Beverly, Director. Standing, Lenny Evans, Secretary; Ed Morr, Director; Bob Scott, External Vice-President; Ron Schliesser, Internal Vice-President; Terry Brown, President; Tom Metz, Director, Tom Haase, Treasurer.

Centennial History Committee members include, left to right, Jim Battershell Jr., Bruce Guilford, Bill Erpelding, Dennis Lengacher, Jim Meyers.

Centennial Co-chairmen are, Dave Kizer, left, who was recently elected Jaycee District Vice-President and Fritz Kuhn, right.

Business firms in Hicksville as of 1965

This list was compiled by the late George Patterson.

Tasty Freez
Ed McCullough's Auto Service
Killians Sporting Goods and Paint
Redwood Motel
Camp Implement Co.
Cromwell's Service Station
Cromwell's Body Shop
Crook and Son Handle Factory
Tip Top — Beer
Richard Cole Surplus Store
Gorrell Hardware
Ohio Power Office
Foodland — Cromwell
Dress Shop Cromwell - Cunningham
Ray's Furniture (Cunningham)
Seibert's Variety Store
Charles Hoff's Recreation
McDonald Hardware
Metz Clothing
Hart's Cafe
Hart's Barber Shop
Savage Realty Auction Co.
Lyons Hotel
Josephine Lantz Rooming House
Kreg Insurance Office
Tri-State Electric
H & W Auto Parts
Ohio Gas Co. Office
Java Shop
Pizza Stand
John the Jeweler
Gambles
E & M Dress Shop
Hofner Rexall Drugs
Beauty Parlor
Western Auto Supply
Dowell Food Store
Wilson's Shoe Store
A & P Tea Co.
Palace of Sweets
Jack Gloor Service Station
Ray Schilb Storage
Onstott Beauty Parlor
Wilderson Storage
Carey Garage
Methodist Church
Episcopal Church
Roman Catholic Church
Al's Grocery and Meats
Yoder's Feed
Dr. Burns Office
National Ideal Co. Poultery Supplies
Rowan Lumber and Coal Co.
Veterans of Foreign Wars Building
Lutheran Church
Hicksville Grain Co.
Evans Funeral Home
Standard Filling Station
Carma Rowe Building
Pure Oil Station
Carl Osmun Dairy
Dr. Hofmeister's Office
Hicksville Motors — Ford
Dr. DeMuth's office
L. E. Hart Insurance
Kroger Co. — Dave Timbrook
James Andrews Tool & Dye Co.
Card Room — Cleland
Armstrong Insurance — Blosser
Huber Picture Show
Kaduk Electric Co.
Brannon Sandwich Shop
News-Tribune Printing Co.
Gorrell Bros. Auctioneers
Hicksville National Bank
Joe Carr's Newstand
Blanche Murphy Jewelry
E. U. B. Church
Lady Bird Dress Shop — Ruth Cook
Lynn Haver Barber Shop
Phillip's Yellowstone Restaurant
Superior Cleaners — Koch
Bond's 10 Cent Store
Mentzer's Gift Shop
Schilb Furniture
Lichty Barber Shop
Hilbert Optometrist
L. L. Hoff and D. Brown Law Office
Douglas Warner, Dentist
Pepple Motors, Chevrolet
Church of Christ
C. G. Hitt, Dentist
Perkins & Reeb Funeral Director
Bett's Nursing Home
Geo. F. Hanna, Dentist
Dr. Paul B. Kerr
Pepple Used Car Lot
Evenheat Co. — Burlingame
Colonial Rest Home — Barkley
Dick Hurni — Insurance
Hicksville Building Loan and Savings
Carl Rohrs Car Lot
Johnson Library
Shell Station — West & Metz
Pete Yoder Body Shop
Tuttle & Wittig Feed
Gueth's Market
Birkmeiers Monument Co. - Blythe
Missionary Church
Curry's Radio Electric
Hi-Lanes Bowling Alley
Harkey's Drive-In
Gas-for-less Station — V. Rohrs

Kennedy's T.V. & Appliances
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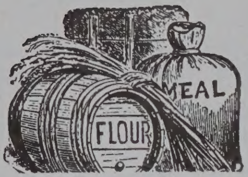
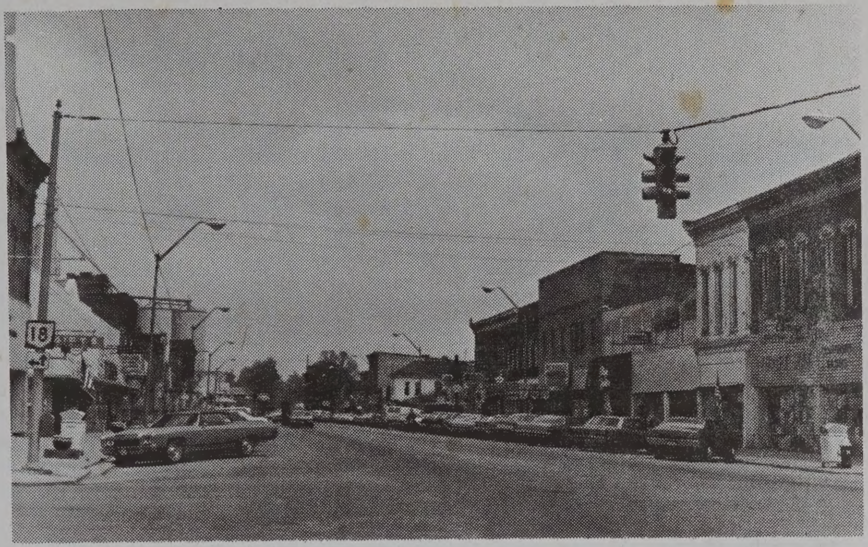


Ashland Bulk Station — Volkert
Nolte's Trailor Court
Landmark Co.
Crystal Lunch — Beer
Slattery Bulk Station
Panasuk Greenhouse
Trident Co. — Don Ford
Holiness Church
State Highway
Doeden Co. — Dotco
Cook Junk Yard
Onstott Iron and Metal
Hickory Hills Country Club
Stollers Feed Co.
Indiana Laundromat
Roan Laundromat
Hicksville High School
Browns Greenhouse
Township Hall

LIVERY STABLE



Hicksville in 1975 is a mingling of old and new as many local landmarks of years gone by take their place along with the inovations of today.

Central Foundry Division
General Motors Corporation
Defiance Plant, Defiance, Ohio

HARDWARE
Sherwood Hardware
McCulloch Chain Saws - Hanna Paints
Plumbing & Electrical Supplies
The Hardware That Has Hardware
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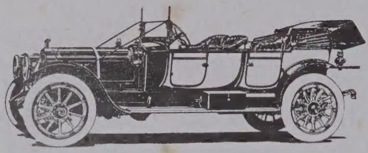
Directions? ! ?



Copyrighted in 1915, this oldtime Road Atlas from the Scarborough Road Atlas Company of Indianapolis gave drivers directions from one point to another in the following manner.

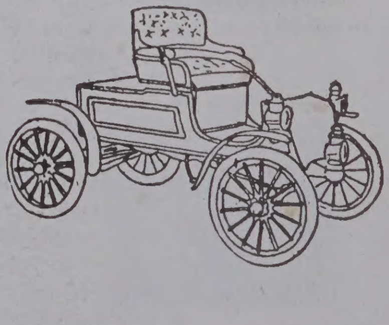
TRIP NO. 402

Hicksville to Fort Wayne, Ind. — 23.6 Miles.

Leave town, going southwest. good gravel 2.5 miles to State line. Set speedometer at State line.

0.0 Leave the four-corners at the line of Ohio and Indiana, going southwest on the State Road.
0.1 Bend to left. Fair gravel road to 5.2.
1.5 Straight ahead.
2.5 Church on left. Straight ahead.
2.7 Bridge.
2.9 Straight ahead.
3.1 Bridge.
3.3 Straight ahead.
3.4 Bridge.
4.2 HALLS CORNERS. Straight ahead.
4.7 Bridge.
5.1 School on left.
5.2 Straight ahead.
5.4 Straight ahead. Fair clay road to 7.7.
5.5 Bridge.
6.0 Bridge.
6.2 Bridge.
6.6 Straight ahead.
7.0 Straight ahead.
7.4 Bridge.
7.7 Cemetery on left. Good gravel road to Fort Wayne.
8.0 HARLAN.
8.1 Turn to right.
8.5 Bridge.
9.4 Straight ahead.
9.7 Straight ahead.
10.0 Bridge. Straight ahead.
10.7 Bridge. Straight ahead. Church and cemetery on right.
11.0 School on right.
11.3 Bridge. Straight ahead.
11.6 Bridge.
12.1 Straight ahead.
12.8 Straight ahead.
13.3 Railroad crossing.
13.4 Bridge. Straight ahead.
14.3 Straight ahead.
14.7 Church on left.
15.0 Bridge.
15.5 Straight ahead.
16.1 Straight ahead.
17.0 Straight ahead.
17.2 Turn to left. Church on right.
17.5 Bridge.
18.7 Turn to right.
20.0 Bridge. Turn to right.
20.1 Turn to left.
20.6 Straight ahead.
20.9 Cemetery on left.
22.0 Straight ahead on Lake Ave.
22.3 Straight ahead.
22.9 Bend to left.
23.0 Turn to right. Bridge. On to Columbus St. off of Lake Ave.
23.2 Railroad crossing.
23.4 Turn to left on Clinton St. off of Columbus St.
23.5 Turn right on Main St. off of Clinton St.
23.6 FORT WAYNE. Court House at corner of Main and Calhoun Sts., going west on Main St.

The Atlas and trip were submitted by Wilbur Billman of Hicksville.



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THANKS

TO

The first part of this booklet could not have been written without the following people's verbal analysis,

Laird Hoff
Mr. and Mrs. Guy Volkert
Mrs. Raymond Tuttle
Mrs. Garnett Forder
Mrs. Vera Leonard
Mr. and Mrs. Henry Gecowitts
Robert Longsworth
Ralph Battershell
Lottie Forder
Mr. and Mrs. Clare Lichty
Mr. and Mrs. James Meyers
Leesa Kemerer
Merle Pepple
David Butler
Mr. and Mrs. Robert Kemerer
Joseph Derck
Dr. Robert Boehm
Randall Buchman
Kenneth Hinsch
William Cleland Sr.
Fritz Kuhn
Mr. and Mrs. Kermit Agler
Harold Mohr
Mr. and Mrs. James Battershell Sr.
Anne Wyatt
John Battershell
Mr. and Mrs. S. A. Curry
Larry Stauffer

To compile a factual history on the village, the following printed material was referred to.

Commemorative Biographical Record of Northwestern Ohio (Chicago: J. H. Beers and Co., 1899)

Defiance County Ohio Plat Book and Index of Owners La Porte Indiana: Town and Country Publishing Co. Inc., 1973)

Chaney, R. L., *An Eighth Grade Look at Hicksville History* (Hicksville: Mimeographed, 1946)

Volkert, Opal. *A Compilation of the Mayors of Hicksville* (Hicksville: Mimeographed, 1975)

Williamson, C. W. *History of Western Ohio and Auglaize County* (Columbus, Ohio: W. M. Linn and Sons, 1905)

Johns, Charles H. and Hamilton, Theodore F. *Historical Atlas of the World Illustrated* (Chicago: H. H. Handesty and Co., 1875) This book has a detailed section on Defiance County.

History of Defiance County Ohio Illustrated 188? (rest of information was missing from book)

Howe, Henry. *Historical Collections of Ohio* (Vol. 1, Cincinnati: C. J. Krehbill Co. 1888)

Knapp. *History of the Maumee Valley*

An Historical Pageant and History of Hicksville Ohio 1835-1928 (Hicksville: Mimeographed, 1928)

Patterson, George A. *Hicksville 1836-1965* (Mimeographed)

Hicksville Incorporated Village Municipal Ordinances (Unpublished, 1875 onward)

Honorable A. P. Edgerton Address at the Annual Meeting of the Old Settlers Association (Hicksville: Thos. A. Starr Book and Commercial Printer, 1878)

Voeglin, Ermine and Wheeler. *Indians of Northwest Ohio* (New York and London: Garland Publishing Co. 1974)

Fernow, Berthold. *The Ohio Valley in Colonial Days* (New York: Lenow Hill Publishing Co., 1880)

(Sr.) Cleland, William. *The History of Hicksville* (unpublished speech, given at a Rotary meeting)

Hatcher, Harlan. *The Western Reserve* (New York: The Bobbs-Merril Co. Inc., 1949)

Keller, Marie, *The Hart's Boys Band* (an unpublished account, 1975)

Numerous Defiance County Court Records were referred to.

HICKSVILLE HISTORICAL CENTENNIAL PROGRAM

Thursday Evening, June 5

6:00 — Grand Opening Ceremonies
Queen Candidate Crowning

DARK — Fireworks

Carpenter Rides

Friday Evening, June 6

8:00 — Variety Show (Grandstand)
Wes Harrison
Sound Effects Show
Harmonica Kids & Dad
John Shirley,
Comedian

Carpenter Rides

Saturday, June 7

11:00 — Grand Parade (Grandstand)

1:00 — Jay Gould & Bob Seivers — Fairgrounds

3:00 — "D" Company INDIANA Volunteers Demonstrations
CIVIL WAR RE-ENACTMENT (Grandstand)

4:00 — Bros. of Brush Judging

7:00 — DJ & DJ's In Concert (Grandstand)

9:30 — DJ & DJ's — Two Different Shows (Grandstand)

Carpenter Rides All Day

Flea Market — 10 a.m. - 9 p.m.

Sunday, June 8

11:00 - 6:00 — Flea Market

12:00 — Water-Ball

2:00 — "D" Company INDIANA Volunteers Demonstration
CIVIL WAR RE-ENACTMENT (Grandstand)

4:00 — Sky-Divers

Carpenter Rides — Noon to 10:00 p.m.

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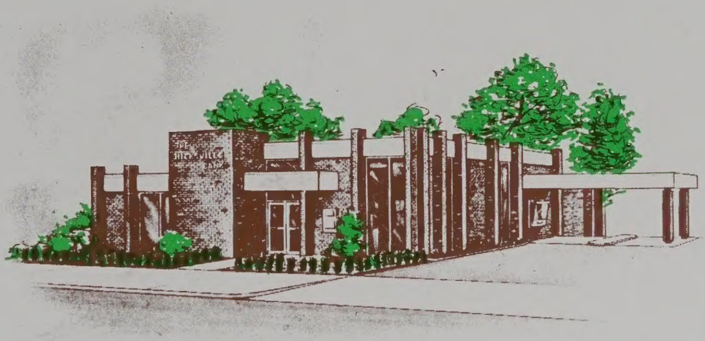

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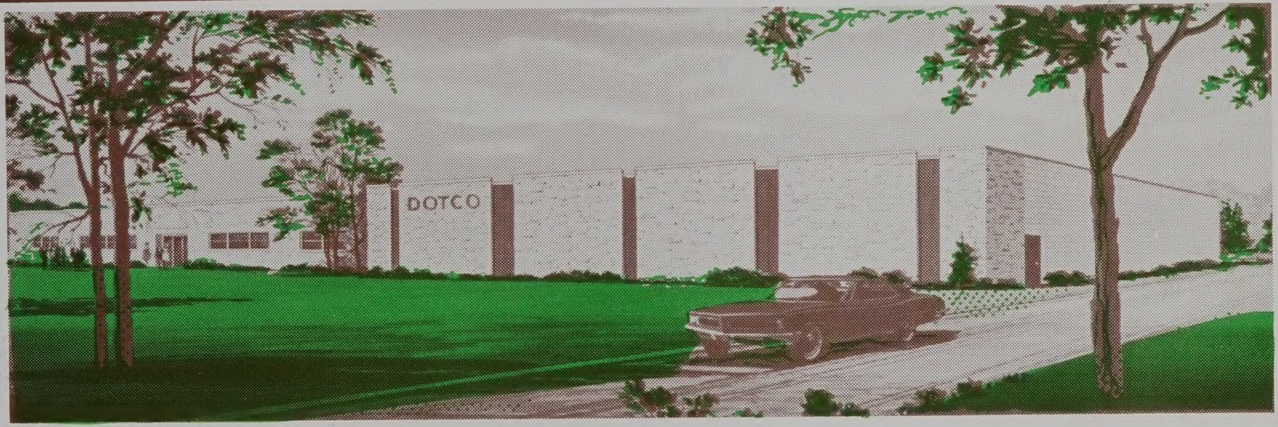

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1875 — 1975

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